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TODAY:
STAGE
World Music Page 10

The World's Daily Newspaper

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Willey Mail To President Was Warm And Cordial

New Voter Surveys Show Clinton's Rating Stays High, Possibly Rising

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — As Clinton administration aides sought to counter the latest allegations of sexual misconduct by the president, polls made public Tuesday show that public support for his job performance remains at record levels and may even be rising.

Following a widely viewed television interview in which a former White House volunteer, Kathleen Willey, accused President Bill Clinton of unwanted sexual attentions during a meeting in November 1993, White House aides took the unusual step of making public notes and letters from Mrs. Willey to Mr. Clinton, some sent within days of the meeting, in which she adopts a cordial, even admiring, tone.

She signed a note sent before the meeting, "Fondly, Kathleen." In others after the meeting, she expressed a "willingness to help you in any way that I can" and referred to herself as Mr. Clinton's "number one fan."

Women's groups shaken by Willey testimony. • Republicans uneasy ponder their options. Page 3.

Robert Bennett, one of Mr. Clinton's private attorneys, suggested to an interviewer that Mrs. Willey might be motivated by financial gain.

Speaking on CNN, he said that her appearance Sunday on the television program "60 Minutes" was intended to improve prospects for a \$300,000 book deal. Her attorney later denied that.

Mrs. Willey was not paid by CBS for the "60 Minutes" appearance, according to a spokesman at the network's headquarters. He said it was not the program's practice to pay for interviews.

White House aides denied that they were engaging in an attempt to undermine the credibility of Mrs. Willey, a longtime Democratic Party activist, saying that they were simply trying to explain why the president was "mystified," as he said Monday, by her account.

The White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, said of the strategy in making public the correspondence: "I think that there was an effort to put factual material out so that Americans could place this story in context. Obviously we hope that context is more favorable to the president. But it is not done with any sense of animosity toward Ms. Willey."

Clinton defenders had expressed concern that the televised account Sunday from a seemingly poised and reserved

See CLINTON, Page 7

Despite a Ban, U.S. Trains Indonesian Military Units

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has been training Indonesian military forces since 1992, despite a congressional ban intended to curb human rights abuses by those soldiers, Defense Department documents show.

The Indonesian forces trained by the Pentagon include a special-forces commando unit called Kopassus, which human rights groups say has tortured and killed civilians. The unit has received training from U.S. special-operations soldiers in skills like psychological warfare and reconnaissance missions.

Pentagon officials said the training program was entirely legal, since it took place under a program different from the one curtailed by Congress. Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre said in a letter to a member of Congress last month that the training "enhances rather than diminishes our ability to positively influence Indonesia's human rights policies and behavior."

Some members of Congress question

that Representative Christopher Smith, Republican of New Jersey, said the training program appeared "to be a dramatic end run around the rules that Congress has carefully prescribed for military training and education of Indonesian forces."

In Jakarta, a U.S. Embassy spokesman, Craig Stromme, said that the exercises had been conducted with many countries and had been announced as they occurred, Reuters reported. "We have tried to keep the exercises secret," he said.

Indonesia is undergoing its greatest political and economic crisis since President Suharto took power in 1965. Last week, the newly appointed defense minister, General Wiranto, warned that the government would crack down hard on demonstrators protesting repression and corruption.

The troops trained by the Pentagon over the past five years include only Kopassus, whose Red Berets have been deployed this year against demonstra-

See TRAIN, Page 5

Newstand Prices	
Andorra	10.00 FF Lebanon
America	12.50 FF Morocco
Armenia	1,600 CFA Qatar
Aruba	SE 5.50 Réunion
France	10.00 FF Saudi Arabia
Gabon	1,100 CFA Senegal
Iceland	2,800 Lire Spain
Iraq	1,250 CFA Tunisia
Jordan	1,250 JD U.A.E.
Kuwait	700 Fils U.S. NL (Eur.)
Malta	\$1.20

The Dollar	
New York	Tuesday 8:4 P.M.
DIM	1,818
Pound	1,6743
Yen	128.82
FF	6,0985

The Dow	
+31.14	8749.99
S&P 500	1079.27
change	1080.42

Previous close

Tuesday 4 P.M.

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THE AMERICAS

Willey Account Jars Women Who Back Clinton

By Thomas B. Edsall
and Terry M. Neal
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Kathleen Willey's detailed description of President Bill Clinton's alleged attempt to kiss and grope her has fractured the support Mr. Clinton has been receiving from a key constituency: the leaders of liberal women's rights groups.

The credibility of Mrs. Willey, a former White House employee, and her apparent lack of an ideological ax to grind have prompted the heads of such groups as the National Organization for Women, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League and 9-to-5 to abandon public neutrality and become much more critical of the president.

"I heard her story, and this was a woman who sounded credible, who told

a story that was compelling and believable," said Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

"This is different from Monica Lewinsky, whose story goes back and forth, and you don't know what to believe," Ms. Michelman said, adding that Ms. Lewinsky "hasn't indicated any difficulty; whatever happened, she was a willing participant."

"Kathleen Willey told a different story," Ms. Michelman said. "She was an unwilling participant."

The White House immediately tried to counter the impression of detections among women. The Democratic National Committee directed reporters to officials in the Women's Leadership Forum, a Democratic group.

Cynthia Friedman, a former national chairman of the group, said: "This is

what I know: The president issued a very flat denial about Willey's accusation, and I really believe in the president."

Throughout Mr. Clinton's dealing with the sexual harassment lawsuit filed by Paula Jones and more recently with allegations that he had sex with Ms. Lewinsky, a former White House intern, women generally have supported him, and leaders of liberal women's groups have remained neutral on, if not sympathetic to, his plight.

Women were crucial to Mr. Clinton's victory in 1996. If the election had been conducted only among men, Bob Dole would be president, elected by a one-point margin, 44 percent to 43 percent.

Mr. Clinton, however, defeated Mr. Dole among women by an overwhelming 54 percent to 38 percent.

While cautioning that nothing has been proved, Patricia Ireland, president

of the National Association for Women, spoke as if the weight of evidence was with Mrs. Willey.

"Seeing the interview was even more compelling than seeing the words on paper," Ms. Ireland said, referring to Mrs. Willey's appearance Sunday on the CBS news program "60 Minutes."

"I have to say she has a great deal of credibility," Ms. Ireland said in an interview.

On CNN, Ms. Ireland commented on Mrs. Willey's remarks on CBS and her deposition: "If it's true, it's sexual assault. He put his hand on her breast. He put her hand on his erection."

"Now we're talking about, really, sexual predators and people who in positions of power use that power to take advantage of women," Ms. Ireland said.

Ms. Ireland still came under fire from the political right, where leaders accused her Monday of changing her tune because public opinion was likely to shift against Mr. Clinton or because members of the National Organization for Women are demanding that she take a tough stand.

Anita Blair, executive vice president of the Independent Women's Forum, said: "Ms. Ireland's statement was made 'not out of any concern about what the truth might be' but what her organization would support."

Susan Carpenter-McMillan, an adviser to Mrs. Jones, was asked Monday on the NBC show "Today" about Ms. Ireland's strong response regarding Mrs. Willey after providing "very little support for Paula Jones."

Ms. Carpenter-McMillan declared that Ms. Ireland "has ruined the women's movement."

"She's ruined the issue of sexual harassment," Ms. Carpenter-McMillan said. "One more time, we see a pattern of the only women that are going to be defended by Patricia Ireland and the likes are older, more educated Democrats."

In an interview Monday, Ms. Michelman said she defends Mrs. Jones's right to pursue her case, but added that her organization, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, was not going "to jump on board in response to allegations promoted and funded by groups that have worked hard to deny women their constitutional and legal rights."

Representative Nita Lowey, a Democrat of New York and a longtime Clinton supporter, called Mrs. Willey's allegations "very serious and very troubling for those of us who have fought so hard against sexual harassment."

Anna Perez Ferguson, president of the bipartisan National Women's Political Caucus, said that while she considered the allegations "serious and disturbing," she wanted to remain circumspect.

"This is private litigation," she said. "It is grand jury testimony. With that in mind, we only have a few pieces of the puzzle."

POLITICAL NOTES



Johnny Chung, left, and the California businessman's attorney, Brian Sun, speaking to the media after his court hearing in Los Angeles. Steve Granitz/Reuters

Chung Pleads Guilty On Funding Abuses

LOS ANGELES — In a deal with government prosecutors, the California businessman and Democratic fund-raiser Johnny Chung has pleaded guilty to bank fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy in connection with the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign.

Mr. Chung, the fourth person charged in five weeks in an investigation of campaign finance abuses, has agreed to cooperate with authorities. Sentencing was set for July 20. He could face up to 37 years in prison and fines of more than \$1 million.

Mr. Chung, 43, admitted in federal court Monday to trying to exceed individual limits on campaign donations by reimbursing 20 contributors \$1,000 each for money they gave in a 1995 fund-raiser bare. Mr. Chung also pleaded guilty to making \$8,000 in illegal donations to Senator John Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts, in a 1996 event in Beverly Hills.

Mr. Chung's lawyer, Brian Sun, said his client would answer any questions by the federal Campaign Finance Task Force, which is investigating alleged campaign finance abuses. (NYT)

Clinton Nominee For Judge Bows Out

WASHINGTON — Faced with probable rejection by the Senate, a Pennsylvania state judge has withdrawn her nomination for the U.S. District Court bench.

Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson, who would have been the first black

woman to sit on the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, withdrew in a letter to President Bill Clinton that asserted she had been subjected to an "unrelenting campaign of vilification and distortion" in a "politicized environment."

Republican leaders argued that she was soft on crime, biased against police and given to profanity from the bench, and said she would have been overwhelmingly rejected by the Senate in a vote that had been scheduled for Wednesday.

Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said: "Given the strong, bipartisan opposition from law enforcement groups, her demonstrated leniency in sentencing convicted criminals and the Judiciary Committee's concerns about her lack of candor throughout the nomination process, I believe withdrawing the nomination is the right thing to do."

Dissenting from that view, Senator Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania and a senior Judiciary Committee member, who led the fight for his fellow Pennsylvanian, praised her "tenacity and courage." He also criticized the committee's handling of the nomination, including a second hearing last week during which he said Judge Massiah-Jackson was asked details she could not possibly have remembered from cases 15 years ago.

Pennsylvania's other Republican senator, Rick Santorum, defended the handling of the nomination and said he would have voted against it.

If she had been rejected in a vote, Judge Massiah-Jackson would have been Mr. Clinton's first judicial nominee to be turned down by the Senate, even though Republicans have been waging a protracted battle with the administration over what they describe as "liberal" and "activist" nominees. (WP)

Sweepstakes Firm to Tone Down Pitch

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — After years of sending bulging envelopes promising "You're our newest winner," American Family Publishers agreed to stop using the slogan and will dole out \$1.25 million to 25 states to settle allegations that it misled consumers.

The agreement awards \$50,000 to each of the 25 states and sets guidelines for when the term "winner" can be used.

Mr. White received many of the items that are to be auctioned from Mrs. Lincoln's estate after her death in 1995.

"It is now clear that Mrs. Lincoln took advantage of her position as our father's secretary, and later as the custodian of objects intended for the Library, by taking home with her countless documents and objects that had belonged to our father and the United States Government," the Kennedy children wrote.

It was most pointed attack yet on an auction that has stirred controversy and questions of provenance for months.

Arlan Etinger, president of Guernsey's, which is to conduct the sale Wednesday and Thursday in New York,

challenged the Kennedys' contention that Mrs. Lincoln had wrongfully taken or held onto anything without their knowledge or consent.

The company has "finally

been stopped in the misleading scam they have been running all these years," said Michigan's attorney general, Frank Kelly, who has been active in a task force investigating the sweepstakes.

"They should be ashamed of themselves for this despicable fraud."

The company admitted no wrongdoing in the pact with the attorneys general, which

does not prevent the states from suing the company.

Gary Peller and Anthony Cook, professors at Georgetown University Law School, are spearheading a lawsuit in Maryland. They are seeking to halt the company's mailings in Maryland

and asking that those who purchased magazines and joined in the litigation be refunded their money and awarded punitive damages. The suit alleges that the company uses the sweepstakes as a fraudulent device to sell more magazines.

Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER
in Germany/Austria Sponsored Section
(see page 19)

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EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA
THE AMERICAS

EUROPE

Gordon Brown Basks Awkwardly in the Spotlight

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — Once described as a man who could brighten a room just by leaving it, Gordon Brown, the dark and brooding chancellor of the Exchequer, would seem to have no place in the luminous center ring of the image-conscious New Labour government. But on Tuesday, he was the one in the spotlight, presenting the first full Labour budget in 20 years to a packed House of Commons and confirming his role as Prime Minister Tony Blair's first among equals.

In what Mr. Blair called a "defining moment" of his nine-month-old government, Mr. Brown outlined the economic underpinning of the government's centerpiece pledge to give people incentives to get off welfare.

In economic and social policy-making, Mr. Brown enjoys an independence from 10 Downing Street that no one else in the highly controlled and centralized Blair government does. Behind his sole prominence in the nationally televised proceedings Tuesday is an association between two new arrivals in Parliament in

1983 that founded on charges of betrayal in the struggle for party leadership and now seems to have arrived at a complementary harmony. Their fortunes are interwoven, and their relationship is pivotal to the success of the government.

Called the "Iron Chancellor" for his tight-fisted approach to spending and his commitment to ending Britain's "boom and bust" cycles, Mr. Brown has provided Labour with a level of confidence in the financial community it has never known, furthering Mr. Blair's campaign to replace the Conservatives, the dominant party for much of this century, as the party of Britain's center.

The two men provide abundant ingredients for an Odd Couple production. Mr. Blair, 44, is briskly well-spoken, trimly tailored, and capable of producing a beaming smile at the appearance of a crowd of one. Mr. Brown, 47, is studiously inelegant with a wardrobe of interchangeable navy suits, white shirts and red ties, his fingernails gnawed to the cuticles, his rare public smile a frozen rictus appearing at unsettlingly inappropriate moments like when he is discussing unemployment or mass poverty.

His handlers have been unable to coax from him in public the fine-boned wit and shoulder-heaving laughter that he freely exhibits in private.

Mr. Blair is an Oxford graduate with an unremarkable academic record, a long-haired, guitar-playing, rebellious period in his adolescence and a late commitment to Labour activism. Mr. Brown is a Church of Scotland minister's son who observed the human costs of careless deindustrialization in his teens and became politically engaged. He had a spectacular career in Britain's most demanding school system, graduated at age 19 from the University of Edinburgh with high honors in history and as a member of Parliament passed up London dinner-party politics on the weekends for solitary door-to-door attention to his grumpy constituency.

Mr. Brown once harbored the expectation of being prime minister himself and has not abandoned it even though his next opportunity is likely nine years away. When John Smith, the leader of the Labour Party, died of a heart attack in 1994, Mr. Brown was the anticipated choice of the rank and file, but he did not

reckon with the ambition of his closest parliamentary friend, Mr. Blair.

In a now famous showdown dinner at Mr. Blair's corner hangout, a restaurant called Granite in Islington, Mr. Brown yielded to arguments that the younger man's public appeal in an era of soundbite campaigns held more promise for a Labour victory than his candidacy would.

A biography written with Mr. Brown's cooperation and published last month revealed that Mr. Brown harbored a grudge over what he felt was Mr. Blair's betrayal of a pledge to let him run and that he felt he would have defeated Mr. Blair had he challenged him.

Born in Glasgow, the young Mr. Brown was steered to a special program for intellectually gifted students and entered Edinburgh University at 16. He achieved his bonus record despite an injury in a rugby match in his first year that cost him the sight in his left eye.

Using a little-known clause covering student politics, he was elected rector of the university, giving the precocious 20-year-old authority over men and women twice his age. He resisted campaigns by the elders to unseat him, commenting afterwards, "It was an early lesson in how to tackle the establishment."

Seeing his father's parishioners in the needy Govan district of Glasgow gave him an early sense of service and a dutiful Calvinist social conscience. He embraced socialism and the Labour Party, composing pamphlets that argued for the forced redistribution of wealth and curbs on the "uneven and uncontrolled development of British capitalism."



Mr. Brown displaying an uncharacteristic smile Tuesday as he left his official residence with the traditional budget box containing his speech.

He ran for Parliament unsuccessfully in 1979 and then in 1983 won his present seat in the town of Kirkcaldy, a town on the other side of the Firth of Forth from Edinburgh.

In Westminster, he shared a windowless office with another new member, Mr. Blair, thus beginning the partnership that led to the Downing speech to the Commons on Thursday with the prime minister cheering him on from a front-bench seat by his side.

U.K.: Breathing New Life Into Work Ethic

Continued from Page 1

creases of £250 million (\$417 million) for education and £500 million for the National Health Service.

The package was largely welcomed in financial markets, except for the ironic disappointment that Mr. Brown did not impose any new taxes on consumers.

Analysts said the absence of higher taxes increased the likelihood that the Bank of England would have to increase interest rates, and maintain them at a high level for a longer time to come, to cool consumer spending and dampen an inflation rate that has risen above 3 percent in recent months.

Mr. Brown forecast that inflation would average 3 percent in 1998 and reach the government's target of 2.5 percent next year.

"He's leaving the Bank of England the job of slowing the economy," said Giles Keating, chief economist at HSBC James Capel. He said the central bank would probably increase its key interest rate next month by one-quarter of a percentage point, to 7.5 percent.

Stock prices soared to record highs, with the FTSE-100 benchmark index rising 49.8 points to 5,834.9. Investors cheered the absence of major new taxes as well as a separate decision by Mr. Brown to allow individuals to transfer unlimited amounts of existing tax-exempt funds into new investment savings accounts.

William Hague, head of the Conservative Party, hailed the move on economic grounds but derided Mr. Brown for a "humiliating" political U-turn.

Mr. Brown lowered the forecast for economic growth this year to between 2 percent and 2.5 percent, one quarter of a percentage point lower than projected in November, because of the effects of the slowdown in Asia.

Unlike traditional British budgets, the accent Tuesday was not on major spending or tax initiatives designed to stoke growth or redistribute wealth. The change reflects the tame conservatism of Mr. Blair and Mr. Brown's conviction that prosperity lies more in the microeconomics of education, training and tax incentives for work and business creation.

The budget is designed to eliminate a trap in many countries' welfare systems, in which many low-paid employees give up more in taxes and lost benefits than they receive in wages. Under the system,



BRAVE FACE — Jonathan Aitken, a former Conservative minister, after his arrest Tuesday on allegations of perjury.

many families will be exempt from paying any tax until they make more than 50 percent of average earnings.

Mr. Hague criticized the plan as "extremely complex" and said it would put women at a disadvantage. Currently, they receive family welfare benefits, but under the new system money may be funneled into the paychecks of their spouses.

Some worry that the system could discourage people from taking entry-level jobs because if they lose their jobs, they must go through a lengthy process of reapplying for welfare benefits.

BRIEFLY**Russia Backs Kosovo Rights**

PRISTINA, Serbia — Russia called indirectly on Tuesday for wider autonomy for ethnic Albanians in Kosovo while rejecting their demands for independence.

"Russia starts from two principles when resolving issues of national minorities," the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeni Primakov, said after talks in Belgrade with his Serbian counterpart, Zivadin Jovanovic. "That is the principle of territorial integrity in the resolution of issues within a certain state and granting wider self-government rights."

In Pristina, ethnic Albanian leaders refused again Tuesday to meet with a Serbian delegation because the Serbs refused to discuss independence.

A Runoff Is Likely in Armenia

YEREVAN, Armenia — Armenia's acting president and his top challenger headed Tuesday for a second-round runoff after an election marked by accusations of fraud.

The Central Elections Commission said that with three-fifths of the vote on Monday counted, Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan had 36.6 percent. His main rival, Karen Demirchyan, had 28.1 percent. If the trend holds, none of the 12 candidates will gain a majority, forcing a March 30 runoff.

'Mad Cow' Cover-Up Is Claimed

LONDON — A scientist cast doubt Tuesday on figures showing a sharp fall in "mad cow" disease in Britain.

Richard Lacey, the microbiologist who was the first scientist to warn that bovine spongiform encephalopathy could spread to humans, said meat processors had shown him evidence that farmers were covering up cases.

Official figures show that cases in British cattle fell to 4,129 last year from 36,682 in the peak year, 1992. The Agriculture Ministry said it stood by its figures.

French Parties Rebuff Far Right

PARIS — The rightist Rally for the Republic and centrist Union for French Democracy ruled out deals with the far-right National Front on Tuesday, after the anti-immigrant party offered its support in elections for the presidency of 22 regional councils on Friday.

But one regional president, Jacques Blanc of Langue-doc-Roussillon, of the Union for French Democracy, said he would accept the Front's support to assure his reelection, and there was speculation that several other center-right candidates would also make deals.

Schroeder Ally Is to Take Control of German State

Reuters

BONN — The opposition Social Democrats on Tuesday trumpeted a change of leadership in Germany's most populous state as a major step in their campaign to oust Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Social Democratic officials said the naming of Wolfgang Clement, a pro-business Social Democrat, to run North Rhine-Westphalia would strengthen the hand of Gerhard Schroeder, their candidate for the chancellorship in September's general election.

The state's long-time premier, Johannes Rau, announced Monday night that he would step down by summer in favor of Mr. Clement, 57, the state's economics minister and a party colleague.

"I want to make my contribution so the party's chances for Sept. 27 improve further," Mr. Rau, 67, said Tuesday. "I believe additional momentum has been created for a change of politics in Bonn."

Mr. Kohl's supporters said the change was simply proof that the state's coalition government of Social Democrats and Greens was in trouble and insisted it had little to do with national politics.

But Social Democrats said the handing over sent an important signal that a new generation of politicians was taking

power in Germany. Mr. Schroeder, 53, has been playing a similar theme in his campaign against the 67-year-old Mr. Kohl.

In addition, Mr. Rau has long been associated with the more traditional left-wing of the party, while Mr. Clement is considered a pragmatist in the mold of Mr. Schroeder.

Mr. Kohl accused the party of bundling Mr. Rau off the political stage purely for tactical reasons.

"They did not treat him honestly and that's not a good example of leadership," he said in Berlin.

Mr. Kohl also said he did not think widespread skepticism among Germans about Europe's monetary union would play a decisive role in this year's general election. He argued that once the decision on which countries are to take part in the euro is reached in early May, "the issue will create less fear after that."

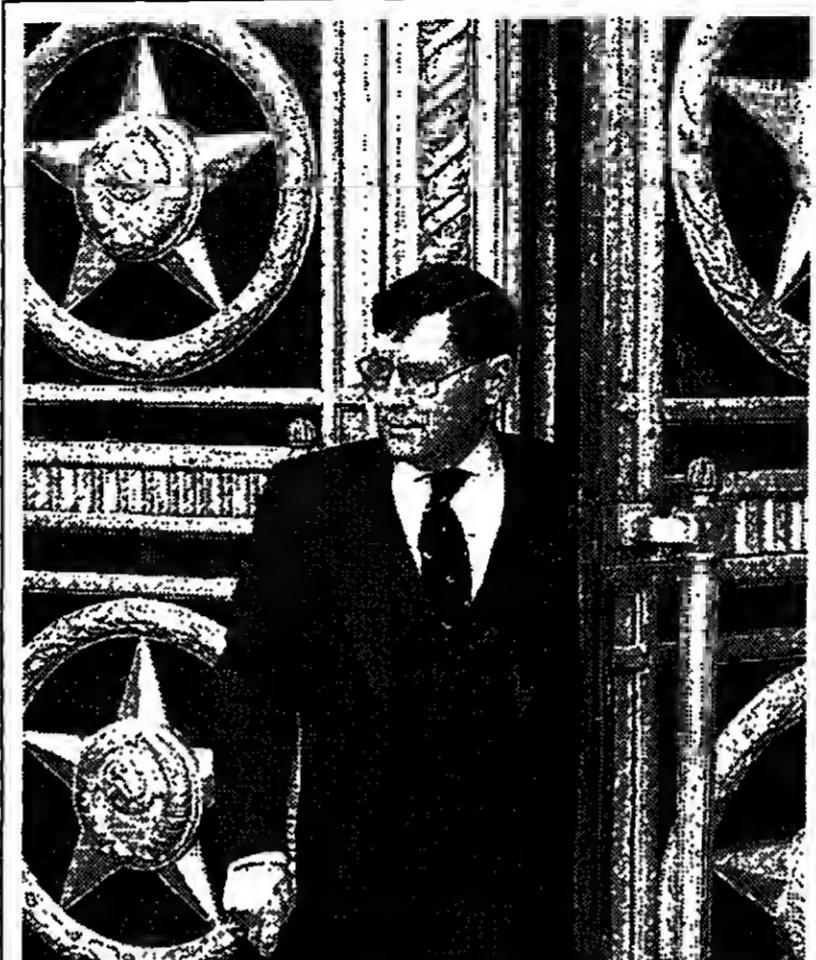
Commentators said the handover in North Rhine-Westphalia increased pressure on Mr. Kohl to consider passing on the baton to his own potential successor, Wolfgang Schaeuble.

Mr. Kohl has insisted he will not step down as his party's candidate for chancellor despite poll ratings which show his Christian Democratic Union lagging the Social Democrats.

"Rau's departure increases the pressure on Helmut Kohl," said the newspaper General-Anzeiger in Bonn. "One of them has recognized the sign of the times, the other still hesitates."

North Rhine-Westphalia is a western state with a population of 17.4 million. It is home to Germany's industrial heartland, the Ruhr Valley, as well as big cities like Cologne and Dusseldorf. It has long been a bastion of Social Democratic support.

Mr. Clement has pursued pro-business policies to secure jobs in the state. Advocating big industrial projects has often put him on a collision course with the Greens. ARD television said a Schroeder-Clement axis in the party meant the Greens would not have an easy ride at state level or in a "red-green" coalition in Bonn.



Ambassador Per Tresselt leaving the Foreign Ministry in Moscow on Tuesday after being told two Norwegians would be expelled.

A Norway-Russia Spy Dispute

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

OSLO — Norway criticized Russia on Tuesday for expelling two Norwegian diplomats, but signaled that it had no plans to escalate a spying dispute with a new round of expulsions.

The Norwegian ambassador, Per Tresselt, was summoned Tuesday to the Russian Foreign Ministry and told two Norwegians would be expelled.

Foreign Minister Vollebaek said Tuesday, "The government sees the Russian expulsions as serious but does not want to contribute to anything that can worsen relations with our neighbor." He said he planned to go ahead with a visit this month to Murmansk, northwestern Russia.

Earlier in Moscow, the Foreign Ministry said that Russia had decided to expel two Norwegian diplomats in retaliation for Norway's declaring five Russians persona non grata.

(Reuters, AP)

9,000 Listed As Victims Of Argentina

New York Times Service

MADRID — The names of 9,000 people who disappeared during the Argentine military dictatorship have been presented to a Spanish judge, sharply widening his inquiry into state-sponsored terrorism that until recently listed a much smaller fraction of the estimated 30,000 people who died.

Six leaders of the Argentine Workers' Central, that country's second-largest trade union, gave the judge the expanded list of victims on Monday.

The union leaders also submitted the names of 896 military officers whom they blamed for the kidnaps and killings of leftists during military rule from 1976 to 1983.

A person close to the investigation by the judge, Baltasar Garzon, said the new list, if fully verified by the court, would represent an important advance in the case, "since the Argentine authorities won't cooperate" in identifying the victims.

Argentine amnesty laws in the 1980s tried to halt criminal inquiries. The Argentine government reported that at least 9,000 people were killed or disappeared during military rule, but human rights groups put the number of deaths at 30,000.

In 1996 Judge Garzon began investigating the disappearance or killing of Spanish citizens in Argentina, starting with a list of 40 names. It gradually increased to 600 names, including descendants of Spaniards, and the University Federation of Argentina later gave the judge a list of 2,200 teachers and students who had disappeared, victims' lawyers said.

The Argentine government and some Spanish officials have conceded that Spain has no jurisdiction. But since the judge issued international arrest warrants for 11 former Argentine military officials in October, it is risky for them to travel outside Argentina, Spanish lawyers said. The judge has also charged about 100 other former and active Argentine military and police officers.

The unions leaders said they presented documents to the judge Monday alleging that a half-dozen large companies, including a Ford automobile plant near Buenos Aires, had been used at times as detention centers for workers considered dissidents. The unions said 68 percent of the dictatorship's victims were workers.

A Tirana Stopover to Seek Albanian Restraint

By Jane Perlez

New York Times Service

TIRANA, Albania — In an effort to shore up the forbearance of the Albanians as they watch Serbian violence against their ethnic kin in neighboring Kosovo, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, Strobe Talbot, briefly dropped into this out-of-the-way capital.

So far, the Albanian government has stayed out of the fray in Kosovo, and Mr. Talbot praised officials here for keeping alive the "forces of moderation and restraint in the face of the forces of extremism."

Mr. Talbot was on part of a Balkans tour designed to stop the Kosovo violence from spreading. One of the great fears in Washington about the Serbian brutality against ethnic Al-

banians in the province of Kosovo is that the violence could spread into Albania and neighboring Macedonia, which has a large ethnic Albanian population.

The Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, has been accused by Washington of orchestrating "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo, where an estimated 80 Albanians, including women and children, have been killed in clashes with the Serbian police.

By coming here for two hours Monday, Mr. Talbot was showing solidarity with the Albanian prime minister, Fatos Nano, who is under pressure at home to be more supportive of the Albanians in Kosovo. Albanians make up more than 90 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people.

Mr. Nano has refrained from calling for the independence of Kosovo from Serbia, which is the rallying cry for many Albanians there. In-

stead, he spoke Monday of "compromise" in Kosovo, essentially meaning that the province be returned to its former status as an autonomous territory. Mr. Milosevic revoked the autonomy of Kosovo in 1989.

To help cool the Kosovo situation and deter the Serbian authorities from chasing Albanian guerrillas from Kosovo over the border into Albania, Mr. Nano has asked for Western help in strengthening his beleaguered army.

More robust border patrols on the Albanian side of the mountainous region that leads into Kosovo would also slow down the weapons flow from Albania that has helped equip the guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

During the civilian strife that tore Albania apart last year, most Albanian soldiers deserted and almost all the armories were ransacked.

encounters with a Spanish delegation and then a French delegation. The professor, fluent in French, Russian, English, German and his native language, could not communicate with the Spanish delegation and had to find an interpreter who spoke Spanish. The French delegation wanted all talks to be in French.

"It makes me think," he said, "if the guys who are already in NATO can't speak the NATO language, maybe language isn't so important."



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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune
INTERNATIONAL**New Phase for Clinton****Character at Issue**

This is a peculiar moment in what will surely be remembered as one of the oddest modern presidencies. Part of what makes it peculiar is that we have so much information and yet still know so little about what kind of man Bill Clinton really is. It is certainly possible, as Mr. Clinton said again on Monday, that he never made sexual overtures to Kathleen Willey and that he never propositioned Paula Jones or seduced Monica Lewinsky. But it is also true that the American people would not be surprised if he turned out to be lying in all three cases.

Obviously, someone is lying. Just as obviously, the unfurling saga of the Clinton presidency has entered a new phase. Feminist organizations are finding their voices, as are politicians such as Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, and former Representative Patricia Schroeder, Democrat of Colorado. What they are saying is that Mrs. Willey has moved the crisis beyond its bumbo-eruption phase. Even a proven charge of sexual aggression against a mature, trusting

woman in the throes of a family crisis probably would not shake Mr. Clinton's hold on his office, but it would permanently fix him in the public mind as a person of ignoble character.

The magnitude of this threat explains why Ann Lewis used the "Today" show on Monday to start the White House effort to do to Mrs. Willey what John Danforth of Missouri and other Republicans did to Anita Hill. That is to say that whatever the facts of Mrs. Willey's life, there will be a continuing effort to paint her as an erotically obsessed person who continued to write and call her accused attacker.

We may never know with certainty whether Mr. Clinton has behaved badly toward these women or is just unlucky in the way people talk about him. But it is possible to trace how the Clinton presidency is shaping voters' expectations for the future. Americans are not naive enough to expect candidates with uncomplicated personal lives. But we may see a resurgence of the old conviction that character counts, and that rigorous inquiry into the character of presidential candidates is not an intrusion but a civic obligation.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Answers, Please

When Newsweek magazine first reported allegations that President Bill Clinton had groped Kathleen Willey in the White House, the president's lawyer, Robert Bennett, said his client had "no specific recollection of meeting [her] in the Oval Office." On Monday, the day after Mrs. Willey told her story on CBS's "60 Minutes," Mr. Clinton, in denying her account, said, "I have a very clear memory of the meeting."

This is not the first time Mr. Clinton has amended past utterances concerning his relations with women. He revised his presidential campaign in 1992 by publicly denying Gennifer Flowers's claim that she had had a 12-year affair with him. "That allegation is false," he told "60 Minutes." "This, to Mr. Clinton, was not a lie. I have absolutely leveled with the American people," he insisted.

Under oath in his deposition this year in the Paula Jones case, however, Mr. Clinton changed the truth somewhat. Asked if he had ever had sexual relations with Ms. Flowers, he responded: "The answer to your question ... is yes." His account now is that the two had sex only once, in 1977.

Similarly, when Paula Jones first accused the president of sexually harassing her, the White House denied everything. "It is not true. He does not recall meeting her. He was never alone in a hotel with her." Yet the president's lawyers, during settlement negotiations, prepared a proposed apology in which he would say, "I have no recollection of meeting Paula Jones on May 8, 1991, in a room at the Excelsior Hotel. However, I do not challenge her claim that we met there ... She did not engage in any improper or sexual conduct." Now, even as they still contend that he does not remember meeting Ms. Jones, the president's lawyers have introduced an affidavit alleging that Ms. Jones said she enjoyed their encounter.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Good Doctor Spock

Babies do not arrive with owner's manuals. But for three generations of American parents, the next best thing was "Baby and Child Care," which has sold nearly 50 million copies since it was first published in 1946. Benjamin Spock, who died on Monday, was a quiet revolutionary who breathed humanity and common sense into child-rearing, and passionately extended his concerns to the cause of peace. At the height of the Vietnam War, he saw the tragedy of all those children raised under the guidance of his book going off to fight in a senseless war.

Dr. Spock could never understand why such critics as the Reverend Norman Vincent Peale and Spiro Agnew saw him in the 1960s as a proponent of instant gratification and rebellion. In advising parents, he was neither permissive nor authoritarian. His most famous suggestion was "Trust yourself," a dramatic break from the rigid, didactic advice contained in parent guides until that time. The greater shortcoming, Dr. Spock said, was vacillation and being too eager to please. He told parents to respect their children

but not to succumb from insisting that this respect be returned.

There was a quixotic quality to his politics. He spoke out against the war, suggesting to students that they could resist the draft. He was convicted of conspiracy to aid draft resistance, but the conviction was overturned on appeal. He ran for president in 1972 on the People's Party ticket, knowing that sales of his books had begun to suffer because of his politics. But sales revived, and a new generation of children's specialists like T. Berry Brazelton and Penelope Leach were happy to hail his teachings as their inspiration.

The intimate connection that most Americans had with Dr. Spock came in the middle of the night when consulting his book meant the difference between reassurance and anxiety over the unknown. He lightened the burden by telling parents that even if they made a mistake, it was not the end of the world, or of the child. He gave confidence and power to parents by telling them to think for themselves, which is not bad advice for those they raised.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

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For Chinese, Too, Politics Is About the Pocketbook

By Thomas L. Friedman

HENG DAO, China — While monitoring village elections in northeastern China with a U.S. observer team, I wandered through the hamlet of Heng Dao, dropping in on a farmer-turned-mechanic who had geese and pigs in the front yard but a stereo and color television inside his brick hut.

Our interpreter asked him what happened to the loudspeakers that the Communist Party had in his "brigade," as small villages were known in Mao's day. The loudspeakers were used to blare out instructions and propaganda from the party. "We took it down last year," the villager said. "No one wanted to listen to it anymore. We have stereo and TV now."

There are many things you learn observing village elections in China, but the overriding impression is this: Not only is China's move toward a free market irreversible, it is now being driven as much from the villages up as from Beijing down.

When people say that in China today the government's only ideology — and basis of legitimacy — is its ability to keep incomes rising, they are so right. Ideologically, the Chinese Communist Party is dead.

In the village campaign speeches we heard, the Communist Party was mentioned in only the most perfunctory references. Instead, every candidate dwelled on his commitment to be "practical" or "pragmatic" in finding ways to raise village incomes.

Sure the party is still in control, but without any message. None. That is why they have taken down the loudspeakers. There is only one message from the party to the masses now: *Get a job.*

Indeed, what is so striking out here on the Nebraska-like plains of Manchuria is that the pressures on advanced economies — to downsize and streamline government, to seek out foreign investors, to plug into global markets and to become more competitive and more diversified — are squeezing Chinese villages as well.

Almost no one is beyond the frontiers of globalization anymore, even Heng Dao village.

As China becomes integrated into the global market, the Chinese regime is being forced to reduce subsidies to state industries, reduce social benefits and

pressure the whole society to become more competitive. That leads to pressure on the provinces and then the counties, and ultimately it trickles down to Heng Dao, where water buffalo share the roads with motor scooters.

Listen to the campaign speeches for village chief here, and tell me what you don't sound as if they are running for mayor of Toledo, Ohio.

The incumbent, Jiang Ying: "I have tried to be very pragmatic in leading the village on the road to wealth. Our annual income is now 2,300 yuan per year. The budget is much smaller, and during my tenure we've gotten many cadres off the village payroll. If elected, we need to introduce more science and technology into agriculture, get more enterprises here and speed up procedures for generating wealth [because] the whole world is turning into one big market for merchandise."

I asked him where he got such ideas.

The village has only one telephone. He answered: "I read newspapers. I listen to radio. We have a window frame factory here. Right now we only sell locally, but we were told that if we improved the quality, we can sell abroad, make more money."

His challenger, Chen Guoshuang, vowed: "I will bring happiness to the village. I will use more technology, which is the key to bringing wealth. First, we must diversify our economy. Families in Brigade 8 planted strawberries in hothouses and made much profit. We are near the paved road. One of our villagers did that last year and earned 10,000 yuan. Really!"

"We will walk with many legs. We will operate our window frame factory according to market demands. We must learn all about the market for aluminum, and improve our factory. With profitable village enterprises, we can reduce taxes, and our children can go to school without us having to pay fees."

So there you have it. All politics isn't local. All politics is global.

Almost everyone now is feeling the same pressures, constraints and opportunities. Almost every government, no matter how big or small, is having to put on the same Golden Stratjacket — which increases economic growth but shrinks political choices.

Just ask Chen Guoshuang, Jiang Ying and the mayor of Toledo, Ohio.

The New York Times

Mediated Political Negotiation Is What Kosovo Needs

By Aaron Rhodes

VIENNA — The Contact Group has called on Slobodan Milosevic to "convince himself publicly to begin a process of dialogue" with the leadership of the Kosovar Albanian community. It urged Belgrade to offer the Kosovars "to enter without preconditions" into a meaningful dialogue on political status issues.

Diving further into the swamp of sensitivity-group language, the Contact Group offered to "facilitate such dialogue."

"Preconditions," however, exist in Kosovo. The Albanians there have lived for years under conditions similar to those suffered by Jews in Nazi-controlled parts of Europe just before World War II.

They have been ghettoized.

They are not free, but politically disenfranchised and deprived of

basic civil liberties. They live in fear of torture and murder, in an atmosphere of terror.

It is not surprising that the Milosevic government, responding to the Contact Group, proposed "open dialogue" with the Kosovars, because it is dealing from a position of overwhelming force. It can make concessions from a pot of accumulated power.

Remarks by the Albanian leader Adam Demaci illustrate the inappropriateness of the idea of "dialogue" in such circumstances. He said there had been no "preparation" for the talks; no agreement had been reached on a "framework" for "dialogue." He noted that the Serbian representatives had

come for a dialogue "as lords to their servants."

A dialogue would work only if the actual preconditions were removed — that is, if the come-pax array of Serbian policies that have pampered the Albanians in Kosovo, subjecting them to a kind of apartheid, were removed. A dialogue would work only if the two sides had equal rights.

Kosovo does not need dialogue. What it needs instead is an internationally mediated political negotiation.

Where is Richard Holbrooke when we need him again?

The Helsinki Human Rights Committees in Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro have proposed that a "Dayton-like" process be initiated. It would require large human and material re-

sources; careful preparation and negotiation of terms; a search for any possible mental space on both sides, in order to leave room to maneuver; creating space when none can be found.

And it would require a huge investment of political capital.

One of the major world players has to step up to the plate, ready to break a cycle of violence and tragedy. A major power of coalition of powers will have to risk failure, in order to shield us all from the risk of war.

In other words, it will require leadership.

The writer is executive director of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

First Impunity, Then a Crime Wave in Latin America

By Jorge G. Castañeda

NEW YORK — Nearly a quarter of a century after he led a coup d'état that overthrew President Salvador Allende, Augusto Pinochet, 82, has finally relinquished command of Chile's armed forces. He left the presidency in 1989 but remained commander in chief until last week, when the constitution he enacted in 1980 required him to step down. In exchange, he was appointed senator for life.

This appointment, as well as the milestone represented by the resignation, has unleashed a passionate debate in Latin America on how democracies should deal with the ghosts and horrors of their recent past.

Congressmen and activists in Chile are seeking ways to try

to investigate and punish outgoing autocrats perceived by public opinion to have been immensely corrupt, yet who remain immensely powerful; or to let bygones be bygones in the name of a smooth and peaceful transition to democratic rule.

The Latin American political and intellectual elites who negotiated the transitions in the 1980s agreed at the time that the best solution was to accept the military's blackmail. This, it was thought, was not too high a price to pay for their departure.

With some exceptions — the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, the Chilean Communist Party, the Uruguayan hard left — this quick quo appeared to be acceptable to society at large.

Apparently, no more. And the motives for the second-guessing are not hard to discern. Beyond the crucial and painful ethical questions raised by the families and friends of victims whose tormentors simply walked away from their crimes, dire political consequences of the blanket pardons are now more clearly palpable.

If no one is seriously punished, there is no good reason to believe that history will not repeat itself.

Consider the continuing pressure exerted by the perpetrators of authoritarian rule. The senators-for-life appointed by General Pinochet have become a formidable obstacle to attempts by Chilean democrats to repeal the dictator's economic and social legislation and push forward their own agenda.

Even though the current governing coalition has won 50 to 60 percent of the vote in elections since 1989.

• And what of the effects of

Labour government had to decide whether or not to join a single European currency. It decided on a policy of indecision. Britain might or might not join in 2002.

But in six weeks' time the euro will be up and running. A bloc of 11 countries will begin forming a new superpower of 300 million people and a GNP of \$6.5 trillion. For years, Britain will be on the outside, looking in.

The reason for the second decision, ton, was fear of antagonizing a press magnate.

Ever since the Labour Party first took office in 1945, it has never completed two full consecutive terms. So Tony Blair, the new prime minister, is desperately anxious to win the next election. Meanwhile, Mr. Murdoch is aware that on any question of limits on media ownership, a British prime minister will be more amenable than a clutch of officials in the European Commission in Brussels.

Little sympathy should be spared for Mr. Patten. Anyone who thinks that, knowing nothing of China, he could browbeat its government into making more concessions to democracy in Hong Kong than had been ardently negotiated by those who did know China is evidently naive.

It is equally naive to imagine that Mr. Murdoch is some otherworldly, cloistered academic and not someone in the media business who wants to make a profit.

As it is, Mr. Patten has done well out of the deal. He has secured an apology from the great KRM, a handsome out-of-court settlement from HarperCollins, a new publisher

Treaty of Versailles, inflicted on Germany at gunpoint, was signed. Without that national humiliation, Hitler would never have come to power. The Second World War would not have happened.

The second case was in the autumn of last year. A new

Treaty of Peace

The writer, author of "Compañero: The Life and Death of Che Guevara," lives in New York and Mexico City and teaches at New York University. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.</

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A Momentous Blunder on NATO

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — This week the United States Senate, which counts among its major accomplishments this year renaming Washington National Airport for former President Ronald Reagan and officially labeling Saddam Hussein a war criminal, takes up the matter of enlarging the 20th century's most successful military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Senate just spent two weeks arguing over how to slice up the pork in the \$214 billion highway and mass transit bill. It will, if passed, spend only a few days on moving the NATO shield hundreds of miles eastward into Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

The reason is simple. As Senator Connie Mack of Florida, the chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, told me while trying to herd reluctant senators into a closed-door discussion of the NATO issue one afternoon last week, "No one is interested in this at home," so few of his colleagues think it worth much of their time.

It is a cliché to observe that since the Cold War ended, foreign policy has dropped to the bottom of voters' concerns. But, as two of the veteran senators who question the wisdom of NATO's expansion, Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York and Republican John Warner of Virginia, remarked in separate interviews, serious consideration of treaties and military alliances once was considered what the Senate was for.

No longer. President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, has pressed the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, to get the NATO deal done before Mr. Clinton leaves Sunday on a trip to Africa.

When Senator Warner and others said the matter should be delayed until the Senate had time for a full-scale debate, Senator Lott refused. He pointed out that a Senate delegation had joined Mr. Clinton at NATO summit meetings in Paris and Madrid last year (no sacrifice being too great for our solons) and that there had been extensive committee hearings.

Wrapping the three former Soviet satellites in the warm embrace of NATO is an appealing notion to many senators, notwithstanding the acknowledgment by advocates that the Czech Republic and Hungary have a long way to go to bring their military forces up to NATO standards. As the date

for ratification has approached, successive estimates of the costs to NATO have been shrinking magically, but the latest NATO estimate of \$1.5 billion over the next decade is barely credible.

The administration, in the person of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, has steadfastly refused to say what happens next if NATO starts moving eastward toward the border of Russia.

"The door is open" to other countries with democratic governments and free markets, Mrs. Albright says. The administration is fighting an effort by Mr. Warner and others to place a moratorium on admission of additional countries until it is known how well the first recruits are assimilated.

Mr. Moynihan points out that if the Baltic countries of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, which are panting for membership, are brought in, the United States and other signatories will have a solemn obligation to defend territory far east than the westernmost border of Russia.

He points to a Russian government strategy paper published last December saying that the expansion of NATO inevitably means Russia will have to rely increasingly on nuclear weapons. Senators Moynihan and Warner are far from alone in rais-

ing alarms about the effect of NATO enlargement on U.S.-Russian relations.

The Duma, Russia's Parliament, on Jan. 23 passed a resolution calling NATO expansion the biggest threat to Russia since the end of World War II. The Duma has blocked ratification of the START-2 nuclear arms agreement signed in 1993 and approved by the Senate two years ago.

George Kennan, the elder statesman who half a century ago devised the fundamental strategy for "containment" of the Soviet Union, has called the enlargement of NATO a classic policy blunder.

Former Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, until his retirement last year the Democrats' leading military authority, told me: "Russian cooperation in avoiding proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is our most important national security objective, and this [NATO expansion] makes them more suspicious and less cooperative."

The administration's answers to this and other serious questions are what I consider to be platitudes," he said.

To the extent that this momentous step has been debated at all, it has taken place outside the bearing of the American people. Too bad our hasty Senate cannot find time before it votes to let the public in on the argument.

The Washington Post



Character and Leadership: Why the Two Are Linked

By Billy Graham

SHEVILLE, North Carolina — Regardless of the outcome of the investigations into President Bill Clinton's alleged misconduct, the controversy swirling around him has raised one question that must not go unanswered: Should those in positions of leadership be held to a higher standard

MEANWHILE

of moral and ethical conduct than ordinary citizens?

Admittedly, on the one hand, those of us who affirm historic Judeo-Christian moral values — values based on what we believe to be God's will as revealed in the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount — assert that wrong is always wrong, no matter who commits it.

The Bible teaches that sin is the breaking of God's moral law. It always has repercussions; "be sure your sin will find you out," the Bible says (Numbers 32:23) — either here or in the next life. None of us can claim to be exempt.

The Bible says, "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:22-23).

However, those entrusted with leadership — whatever their field — bear a special responsibility to uphold the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct, both publicly and privately.

Jesus' words in his parable of the faithful and wise manager are still true: "To whom much is given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48).

Those who have the greatest standing in society — whether clergy, politician, business person, labor leader, athlete, entertainer or anyone else who is a role model — also have the greatest need of personal integrity.

The question is asked, Why can't we just ignore personal character, as long as a person does the job? Simply stated, it is because the stakes are too high and the impact on society is too far-reaching. The greater the visibility, the greater the impact.

A leader's moral character, first of all, influences the way he or she does his or her job. There simply is no such thing as a fire wall between what we do privately and what we do publicly. Can someone who consistently lies or deceives or

cheats in his personal life be trusted in a business deal or a courtroom or a political agreement?

I have known 10 presidents, some as close friends, I knew most of them before they became president and have been in their homes and glimpsed their family lives. I have had long talks with them. All faced temptations and pressures most of us can barely imagine.

Most of the presidents I have known were dedicated and thoughtful men who sincerely sought to serve their country. When I learned later of moral failures or compromises in some instances, it grieved me deeply.

It also made me search my own heart. I feel that people have put me on too high a pedestal; we do the same with other leaders. I know, however, that I am not as good as some people think I am. I have to depend on God every day to help me live as I should.

Only time will tell whether President Clinton has betrayed the trust we Americans have placed in him as our leader.

I have known President Clinton as a friend for many years. I led the prayer at both of his inaugurations. He first came to hear me preach when he was a boy. I hope and pray, for his sake, for the sake of his family and for the sake of our nation, that he is not guilty of the things he is alleged to have done.

We need to pray fervently for him, for everyone involved in this controversy and for our country.

We must not be tempted, however, to divorce character from leadership. That would be tragic.

Ultimately, however, the question of moral character comes down to us as individuals, and to the decision we each must make about our own moral and spiritual foundations. When we point a finger at the president, let us point another finger at ourselves for our sins. Jesus taught that if we even think an immoral act, it is the same in God's sight as the act itself.

The greatest need in America is for a moral and spiritual renewal. This comes, I believe, only as we turn in repentance and faith to the living God, who stands ready to forgive and renew us from within.

The writer is an evangelist and the author, most recently, of "Just as I Am." He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Papon Trial

Regarding "Between Yawns, the Shock of History" (Opinion, March 5) by Amy E. Schwartz:

How sad it is that we continue to drag 87-year-old men to trial bopping, on the basis of 50-year-old evidence, to punish those responsible for the crimes of World War II. True justice after so long a time cannot be reached with any degree of reliability.

Those truly guilty parties that are still alive have lived a long time with their guilt and/or would not acknowledge it under any circumstances. Either way, they soon will pass on to their inevitable final judgment.

I do not understand the passion of those who continue to seek this charade of justice.

Better to follow the South African model: Offer amnesty to any and all who will come

forward to tell their view of the truth.

ROBERT M. FENSKY
Frontenac, Minnesota

Afghan Relief

Regarding "Sovereignty vs. Human Rights" (Opinion, March 12) by Flora Lewis:

Referring to a campaign for the women of Kabul, Flora Lewis writes that it was organized by the European Union and the relief organization Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

In fact, the humanitarian medical relief organization that she should have cited was Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World).

DIANE SELIGSONN
Paris

The writer is a spokeswoman for Médecins du Monde.

Médecins Sans Frontières did not organize the "flower for the women of Kabul" campaign with the European Union. We also do not "feel it inappropriate" to discuss how to pressure Afghanistan's Taliban regime, as the article stated.

On the contrary, as an international independent medical relief organization working in Afghanistan since 1980, Médecins Sans Frontières has continued to work in the field and to negotiate locally and internationally for equal access to health care for all people at all levels.

In September of last year, when hospital care for women was severely limited — to 45 hospital beds for the whole of Kabul — we successfully campaigned for this Taliban edict to be reversed. We also highlighted the need for the UN's World Health Organization to honor its own principles and

refrain from funding discriminatory health policies.

Since then, women's access to health care has improved in Kabul, although a lot more collaborative work at all levels is needed if Afghanistan's people are to have equal access to health care.

SAMANTHA BOLTON
London

The writer is a spokeswoman for Médecins Sans Frontières.

On the Bright Side

Regarding "Mile-Wide Asteroid to Come Dangerously Close" (March 13):

The article focused unnecessarily on the negative aspects of an asteroid impact on Earth. On the bright side, there might be fewer theme parks and halls of fame.

LEE LARSON
Paris

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THE INTERMARKET Starts on Page 6

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From a Frantic Williams to the Bleak Depths of Beckett

By Sheridan Morley

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — A week of stark theatrical contrast at the bleak end, a couple of Beckett revivals, while in the neo-Gothic corner Tennessee Williams's epic farce "Camino Real" (Young Vic), the one that gives us a club-footed Byron, a disenchanted Casanova, Don Quixote de la Mancha and La Dame Aux Camélias all gathered together in some (presumably South American) police state to dream of escape and recall their former romantic glories. If you imagine "Casablanca" reworked as a drug nightmare you will have some idea of what is going on, though not a lot; Williams has no interest here in plot or logical development, just a vague desire to bring together some literary and dramatic superstars and see if anything happens as they crash into each others' fantasies, egos and disasters.

And yet, when I first saw this play in a Peter Hall production at the Phoenix in 1957, it was the one that convinced me of the genius of both author and director. I was admittedly 16, which is a perfect age for a tourist trip to the "Camino"; 40 years later, one is apt to start noticing the creaky nature of the piece and its flamboyant failure to find any kind of resolution for any of its characters.

For once, it is not a problem of RSC underestimating Steven Pimlott has managed to gather a rare collection of star character players (Peter Egan, Susannah York, Paola Dionisotti, Jeffry Wickham, Peter Reeves, David Collings) all of whom are usually what the company lacks most at home. Only Leslie Phillips, in the narrator role that requires at best the late Sydney Greenstreet, Orson Welles or Peter Ustinov, seems as easily padded as the play itself; the others grab their own fragile moments and play them like a series of solo turns on a classical vaudeville bill, probably

the best way of handling Williams's frantically overwrought purple prose.

Seen now, "Camino Real" conceals a desperate kind of autobiography: Williams was, after all, a poet unable to complete his own life or deal with the borderline at which his hothouse dreams became nightmares of love and loss, and you can find him in almost every one of the characters here.

The play resembles some vast, crumbling cathedral in which the individual bricks are more intriguing than the edifice: it is often close to unplayable, sometimes close to unwatchable and yet the RSC, as ever vastly happier at the Young Vic than their main Barbican home, deserve credit that they have not elsewhere had for bringing it back to us. We shall probably have to wait another 40 years before we get to see it again.

With the Old Vic shuttered and for sale, Peter Hall (courageously aided by

the impresario Bill Kenwright) has had to move his company to the Piccadilly, a vastly less welcoming space where a season that will include Judi Dench in "Fluinea," Jemma Redgrave as "Major Barbara" and Elaine Paige in "The Misanthrope" gets off to a low-key start with a revival of the "Waiting for

Godot" that at the Vic last summer starred Ben Kingsley and Alan Howard.

Now we get Julian Glover and Alan Dobie as the Irish tramps awaiting the never-to-be-seen Godot. And though this is still an immensely strong and intelligent revival, something of the charisma of the original is lacking.

The greatness of "Godot" (originally uncovered by Hall in a much abused 1955 staging) is the way it stirs into the void and still finds a few bleak laughs down there. And we now get an intriguing chance to compare it with the altogether darker "Krapp's Last

Tape," which Edward Petherbridge is playing and co-directing for a very few performances in the Barbican Pit.

Written eight years after "Godot" for Patrick Magee, this is a still bleaker account of an old man and a tape recorder, having to choose between the pain of the present and the still greater pain of the spoiling past. Though he has none of the throaty resonance of Magee, Petherbridge manages an altogether more fey and theatrical figure, none the less haunting for that.

A ND finally, in yet another ghastly week for the arts in Britain, with the entire Arts Council being forced to resign ostensibly for reasons of efficiency — in the grant should now go to Hall, allowing him to buy the Old Vic and run the best classical rep in the country. The Barbican can then be left to movies, conferences, visiting companies and anything else John Tusa can find.

Any better ideas?

no sadder sight than that of the Old Vic boarded up; the RSC can manage at the Young Vic, but is still in deep trouble at the Barbican; and the Piccadilly, to judge from a scarcely second-night audience at "Godot," is never going to work for Hall the way the Vic did so magnificently last year until the Mirvishes felt forced to sell that they have, as yet.

Right, here's the proposal: the RSC withdraws to Stratford, as it is in the process of doing anyway, and survives there on the tourist trade, much like Chichester. If it gets a hit, the company can move it to the Young Vic, and a little

of its multi-million pound grant should be left for doing just that. The rest of the grant should now go to Hall, allowing him to buy the Old Vic and run the best classical rep in the country. The Barbican can then be left to movies, conferences, visiting companies and anything else John Tusa can find.

Any better ideas?

The Lojo Band: World Music With a Geography All Its Own

By Mike Zwerin

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — One more proof of the power of World Music. We're talking goose bumps here; hair rising on the back of necks.

The World Music band called Lojo is so original that if they do not break through commercially it might turn out to be our fault. Our loss. Listeners need to stretch, in other words, invest their intelligence like with a good movie in order to pick up on it.

Formed in 1982, the Lojo band taught themselves and each other a considerable degree of musical technique and style. They read history books and discuss them. They continue to work hard at learning.

Structured collectively, with income divided equally, they are all either from Angers or they moved there within the past decade. Angers is a provincial city in western France, between Nantes and Tours. Factories and alcoholics dot the landscape, which is flat, windy and polluted.

"The community did not approve of us at first," said Lojo's leader, Denis Pean. "But now they are finally coming to us. They realize that they have ignored us for 15 years, and they feel a bit guilty about it. They could not really be ignored. They were part of the landscape. They were natives, after all; family in the broad sense of the word."

They bill themselves as a tribe. The

term does not carry the "Easy Rider" exclusive affectation of 30 years ago. It's a plain statement of fact. An extended family with responsibilities to each other. Pean — singer, lyric writer and keyboardist — is a native.

Nicolan Khan Messien is from the Caribbean. Nadia Nid El Mourid and Yamina Nid El Mourid, the sisters who sing, dance, clap hands and play percussion instruments in front of the group, are of Berber origin.

There is also a violinist, an accordionist and a drummer plus management, sound and light people. Ten in all.

Most everybody lives in a large communal house. And there are other small, houses scattered about nearby.

"It is very bourgeois around there," Pean said. "There is a mundane idea of culture. They like classical music. And if musicians play rock or jazz, they must have made a reputation somewhere else to be appreciated. It's a kind of lack of self-respect. If you're so good, what are you doing here?"

Lojo is being recognized by more and more, and more sophisticated, people. Over the next few months, they have work in Lyon, Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, le Printemps de Bourges and Peter Gabriel's "Woman" Festivals in Seattle and Cáceres, Spain.

Their pay can go from \$400 to maybe \$5,000 a night. Total. No matter what, the money is split equally. Their new album, "Mojo Radio" (Emma Produc-

tions) is to be released March 20. The basic mixture is North African crossed with Afro-Cuban sources; with touches of the French chanson, Gypsy dances, and rock 'n' roll.

Every influence has its place. The many elements are not encouraged to go anywhere they ought not to be. Pean sings in Arabic, French, Spanish and English.

It is music of the world with a geography all its own. The elements are tied together by wide bridges. Powerful, moody Arabic modes mix with a rock back-beat and hand-clapping double-time with claves and a triangle chipping in.

A soprano saxophone (played by Yamina, who is new at it), accordion and violin play extended lines in unison à la Weather Report. They can be in 5/4 or 7/4 time.

BOTH Nadia and Yamina have great grace, beauty and musical sophistication. The intervals they sing are complex without showing off. Their smiles are more than a mere hustle of joy. Yamina, a beauty of startling proportion, has a face reminiscent of Garbo and her dance is a demonstration of what swing should look like.

Many people have passed through the group." Pean is shy and speaks slowly and softly but with determination. "It was very difficult to sustain a group with good musicians without

money. So many factors — the human problem, the politics, philosophy, musical questions. We ask ourselves what is a musician's place in the world. We find very few answers. So we keep asking.

"The name Lojo means nothing. It is just a sound. Basically, Lojo is a school. Everybody learns. Everybody teaches. We rehearse in the house. Sometimes we'll have public rehearsals in a small cultural center nearby just to have the experience playing for people."

Rehearsals work like this. Someone will come up with a guitar lick, a verse,

a bass line . . . whatever. It doesn't matter who or what, there are no specialists. Somebody else adds another element. And so on.

G ABRIEL'S "Woman" festival is prestigious. The two this year will be Lojo's first. Gabriel, known for his good ears and open spirit, is a fan.

Lojo has already worked at Lincoln Center in New York — somebody introduced them to somebody, Pean is not sure to whom or when, and he seems unaware of, or at least unimpressed by,

the value of this valuable credit.

They've played Cramps, also in New York, and they had "a lot of success in Poland" and "good contact" in Germany, Spain and Belgium. They've worked Black Africa — Mali and Benin. And on the island of Reunion.

Pean has one habit: that is, unfortunately, politically incorrect in this business, where being late is "hip." He shows up right on time. "I believe in the power of words," he said. "I think that I should do what I say I am going to do. On every level. If I say I am going to do something, then I'd do it."

BOOKS

TOY WARS:
The Epic Struggle
Between G.I. Joe,
Barbie and the
Companies That Make
Them

By G. Wayne Miller, Times
Books, 348 pages, \$25.

Reviewed by
Jonathan Yardley

THIS obviously was not G. Wayne Miller's intention, and indeed it is a judgment with which he presumably would differ, but here you have it: Assembled within the pages of this book is an disagreeable cast of characters as one could ever pray not to meet.

They are the men and women — mostly men — who preside over the design, manufacture and marketing operations of the world's two largest toy companies.

Theirs turns out to be a pretty rotten business, and for the most part appear to be pretty genuine stinkers.

Miller, a reporter at the Providence Journal-Bulletin in Rhode Island, began this

book as a study of G.I. Joe, the "signature toy" of Hasbro, the big Rhode Island-based company, but his research took him into a broader arena: the brutal, bitter competition between Hasbro and Mattel for domination of the huge, lucrative toy market in the United States and other countries.

Business being business, no one will be surprised that there are many tough guys (or would-be tough guys) in this tale, or that rough tactics are employed in the battle for domination and profit. But the spectacle of grown men and women cynically exploiting the naivete and vulnerability of children — with no real thought or concern for the well-being or education of those children — is genuinely repellent.

The central figure of the story is Alan Hassenfeld, who assumed control of Hasbro after his brother, Stephen, died in 1989 of AIDS.

To the extent that Miller has a good guy in his cast, Hassenfeld is clearly meant to be the one; he's loyal to little old Rhode Island, he believes "corporate success

without social responsibility [is] immoral," and for the most part he treats his employees decently. But even he doesn't come off as well in this account as Miller seems to believe he does.

Part of the problem is that Hassenfeld took office in the shadow of his brother, "the father of the modern toy company," who in the 1980s left Mattel in the dust — temporarily, as it turned out — and made himself a legendary figure.

Within the Hassenfeld family and without — and within Alan Hassenfeld himself — there was terrific pressure to live up to Stephen's legend and legacy.

As Miller writes, in the overwrought prose to which he is susceptible, "When tragedy forced [Alan's] hand, he knew the long shadow of his brother would be upon him. Just how long, he could not have imagined."

THE other problem is that virtually every American business now operates under a "merciless mandate of growth and profitability."

Everything from competition to the demands of stockholders to the stock market itself pushes a business to get bigger and bigger, often to the point that the qualities from which its original success arose are diminished or lost.

"This company is no longer one person or five boundless people," Hassenfeld said after a merciless "restructuring" imposed by concerns about efficiency and profit.

Later his right-hand man, Al Verrecchia, a bean counter, said: "I . . . don't think we can promise a warm fuzzy place anymore. It's not

Washington Post Service

ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS

1 SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, by Vicki Robin and Joe Dominguez, 101 pages, \$10.

2 DON'T WORRY, MAKE MONEY, by Richard Carlson, 224 pages, \$12.

3 MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray, 224 pages, \$12.

4 EAT, RIGHT 4 YOUR TYPE, by Peter J. Adams with Catherine Whitney, 224 pages, \$12.

5 TALKING TO HEAVEN, by James Van Praagh, 100 pages, \$10.

6 ANGELS & ASHES, by Frank McCourt, 328 pages, \$7.

7 TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, by Mitch Albom, 216 pages, \$5.

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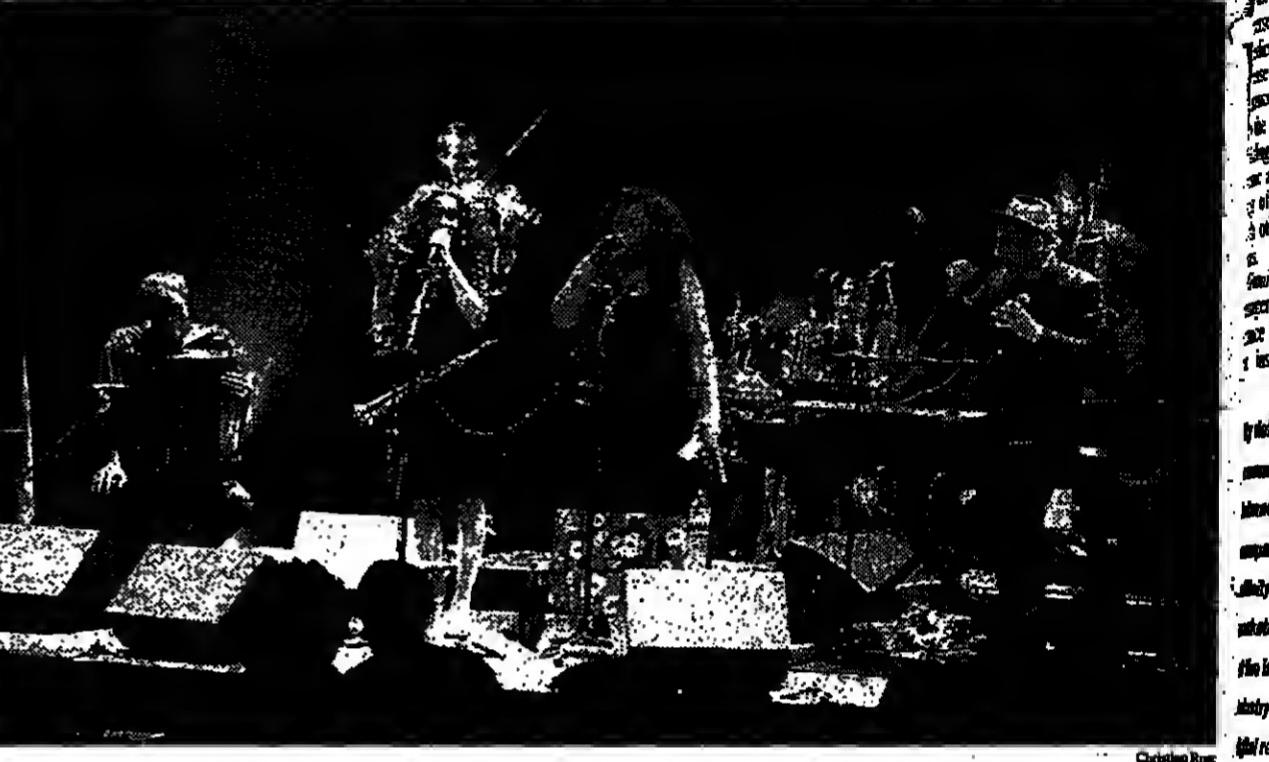
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Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER



Lojo: They have taught themselves and each other a considerable degree of musical technique and style.

Dancers Hit Gold on the Road

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

F LORENCE — The Balletto di Toscana, which started its first North and South American tour on Friday, is in many ways an Italian cultural anomaly.

The company is private, it is small, its repertoire is modern and its success is greater abroad than at home, where contemporary dance is often forgotten in the institutional bias for the big splashy productions of Italy's state-financed opera houses.

When the Balletto di Toscana recently went to Frankfurt with its popular "Mediterranea," an exuberant and haunting homage to the diverse cultures that share what the Romans called Mare Nostrum (Our Sea), there was a 10-minute standing ovation.

The same ballet, a 1993 work by the Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti, played to a half-empty house recently in the northern Italian city of Brescia.

But none of this bothers Cristina Bozzolini, 54, the former prima ballerina who founded the company in Florence in 1983 as a way of giving Italian dancers an opportunity she never had: to perform contemporary choreography.

"I was frustrated," said Bozzolini, now the company's artistic director and still its driving force, speaking after a performance in between squeaks from her cellular phone. "So I set up my own company."

In the beginning, she explained, most of the Balletto di Toscana's 12 dancers, all of them classically trained, were foreigners, since most good Italian dancers had to go abroad to explore their talents.

N OW the company has 16 full-time dancers, all but two of them Italian, a proportion that makes her proud.

Being small has allowed the company to maintain high professional standards — with an emphasis on rigorous discipline that is evident in performances.

Even when the company could not afford more than a dozen dancers, it was able to keep to its schedule, with none of the last-minute changes and cancellations common to state-owned companies.

"We have never missed a show," Bozzolini boasted.

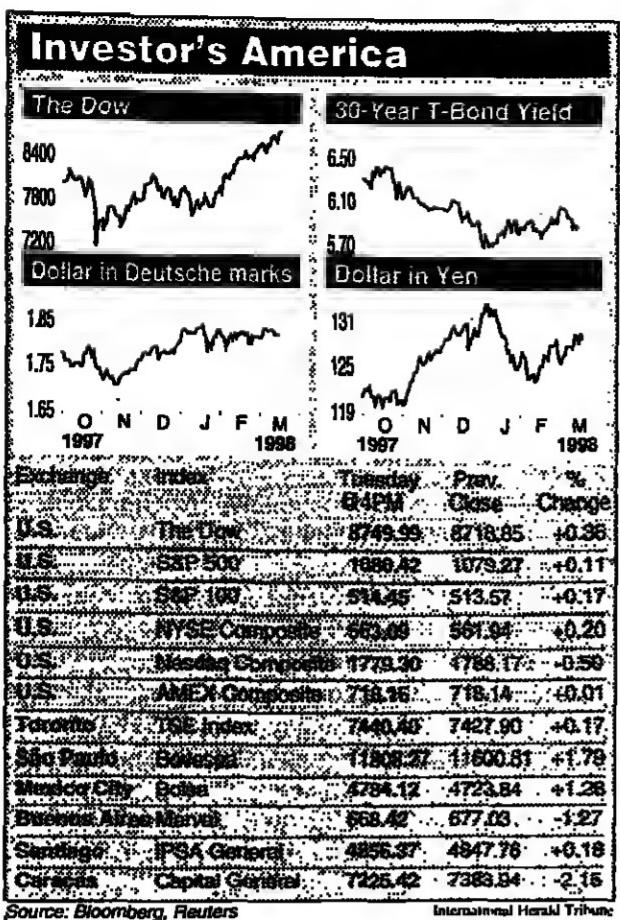
The company, which is on the road for all but 10 performances a year in Florence, has now performed 80 ballets in all.

It keeps 10 in its current repertoire, which includes varied offerings like Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," choreographed by Fabrizio Monteverde, and "Blue Note" and "Don Giovanni," by Giorgio Don Giovanni, and "Medea," by Sofonisba Anguissola.

"Mediterranea" is the only work being performed on the two-month tour and will be offered at the Joyce Theatre in New York for a week.

"Everyone wants this ballet," said Bozzolini. "It's about seas, about countries, about people overcoming their difficulties."

THE AMERICAS



Mixed Signals From Japan Weigh on Dollar

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar slipped against the yen on Tuesday amid mixed signals from Japanese officials on the government's plans to revive the stagnant economy.

The yen was lifted after Taku Yamasaki of the Liberal Democratic Party said the

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

governing party was considering a plan to lower the maximum income-tax rate to 45 percent or 50 percent from 65 percent, according to Jiji Press.

"The whole world is telling them they need to do something dramatic to get their economy going," said Richard Koss, a currency strategist at MFR Inc. The tax plan was holding the dollar back, he said.

In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar was at 128.61 yen, down 129.61 yen from Monday.

Koji Omi, director-general of the Economic Planning Agency, said the government's latest proposal was two-thirds complete and contained measures that would give the economy an immediate jolt. He added, however, that it would be delayed past its expected release date next week and that the government was undecided about whether to increase spending.

"We all know the Japanese economy is in pretty poor shape, and everyone's waiting to see what this fiscal package is going to be," said Jay Bryson, international economist at First Union Capital Markets.

The dollar was quoted at 1.2189, virtually unchanged from Monday ahead of a closely watched report on West German business confidence due Thursday.

Investors are awaiting the final economic research institute's report for any signs Germany's nascent recovery might be picking up speed.

Against other major currencies, the dollar edged up to 6.0985 French francs from 6.0975 francs and to 1.4793 Swiss francs from 1.4780 francs.

The pound rose to \$1.6743 from \$1.6680.

Reuters, Bloomberg

Blue Chips Inch Ahead, but Tech Shares Fall

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks were mixed Tuesday, with blue-chip shares in record territory but technology shares dropping after a report said the Asian turmoil would undermine computer companies' profits and a semiconductor maker reported a loss.

Oil-related issues also declined, as a benchmark price for crude oil fell below \$13 for the first time in nine years.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 31.14 at 8,749.99, a record high.

The broader-based Standard & Poor's 500 index edged up 1.18 point, to 1,080.45, but the technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite index fell 8.88 points, to 1,779.30.

Stocks were little affected by two reports offering mixed economic sig-

nals. The Commerce Department said construction of new homes and apartments, propelled by low mortgage rates and good weather, jumped 6 percent in February to the highest level in more than a decade. But the

yield on 30-year Treasury bonds

served as a reminder that low rates often spur buying, fueling growth.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 12/32 to 103 10/32, pushing its yield up to 5.88 percent from 5.86 percent on Monday.

"In order for us to buy, yields need to climb some more," said Michael Kennedy of Stein Roe.

"Things seem to be, at least on the manufacturing side, slowing down," said Ted Flint of First Midwest Trust Co. "I'm mildly bullish."

A slowdown might limit inflation, which eats into the value of bonds' fixed payments. U.S. manufacturers are expected to be hit by the ongoing economic turmoil in Asia as U.S. exports to the region decline and cheap imports enter the United States rise.

Among stocks, Micron Technology fell 1/4 to 32 after the maker of

semiconductors reported a loss from operations for its second quarter.

A report by International Data Corporation said, "Sagging Asian economies and continued price volatility in the memory segment have dampened, but not extinguished, worldwide semiconductor revenue growth."

Microsoft fell 1/4 to 804 on reports that the Department of Justice has expanded its antitrust probe of the company to include issues relating to Sun Microsystems' Java software.

Chevron fell 1/16 to 82 1/16 and Exxon dropped 1/4 to 62 6/16 on the declining oil prices. "Nobody wants them," said John Cleland of Security Benefit Group. "As the price goes down, exploration activity is less attractive, and that argues against anyone wanting to own anything that's in oil production."

(AP, Bloomberg)

U.S. STOCKS

government also reported that industrial production failed to show an increase for the first time since 1996.

But bonds dropped on the data, which gave investors little incentive to buy government paper with yields at the lowest level in more than three weeks.

Bond investors were looking for more conclusive evidence that the economy is slowing, after it grew at its fastest pace in almost a decade last year. The jump in housing starts

reports offered mixed economic sig-

nals. The Commerce Department said

construction of new homes and apart-

ments, propelled by low mortga-

ge rates and good weather, jumped 6

percent in February to the highest

level in more than a decade. But the

yield on 30-year Treasury bonds

served as a reminder that low rates

often spur buying, fueling growth.

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(AP, Bloomberg)

Argentine Labor Plan Favors Unions

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

BUENOS AIRES — In an uncharacteristic rebuff to big business, President Carlos Saul Menem plans this week to propose a package of labor regulations that leaves intact most government-mandated severance benefits and limits companies' right to hire part-time workers.

Officials said Monday that Mr. Menem's proposal would end several years of policy debates within the governing Peronist Party on how to change Argentine labor laws inherited from the time of General Juan Domingo Peron in the 1950s. In the end, they said, Mr. Menem decided to leave the old structure virtually untouched.

The labor plan, which the Argentine Congress is expected to pass, would modestly help businesses by limiting required severance payments for new workers to the equivalent of 15 months' wages. Otherwise, the proposal fulfills a long list of union demands that will leave the General Confederation of Workers, or CGT, in a commanding position in economic affairs.

Government officials denied the decision was political.

Contending that the policy would be good for the country, they noted that private companies had flourished in recent years.

The president's new proposal includes no provision re-

garding health plans and leaves companies with the full

responsibility of paying severance equivalent to one month's wages for every year of service, up to a limit of 15 years.

Business executives, having pressed for a plan that would

guarantee part-time employment status and allow for separate

labor contracts covering individual companies, were critical.

They said the plan was a political maneuver by Mr. Menem to pick up labor support in an attempt to win his Peronist Party's nomination for a rare third term in elections next year.

Government officials denied the decision was political.

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BASF and Bayer Post Record Profits for '97

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BASF AG and **Bayer AG** posted record profits Tuesday for 1997, as both companies overtook the previous leaders in the German chemicals industry, Hoechst AG.

BASF's pretax profit rose 21 percent last year, to 5.33 billion Deutsche marks (\$2.93 billion), as sales rose 14 percent, to 55.78 billion DM. **BASF's** sales placed it first among Germany's "big three" chemicals makers.

Bayer moved to second in the sector on 1997 sales of 55 billion DM, a 13 percent increase. **Hoechst** earlier reported that it had 52.1 billion DM in sales last year.

Bayer's pretax profit rose 14 percent, to 5.11 billion DM, and it said earnings and sales would grow 4 percent in 1998, which would make for another record earnings report.

Growth at both **Bayer** and **BASF** was fueled by strong foreign demand, as well as favorable exchange rate factors.

Bayer shares finished 10 pfennig higher at 79.55 DM. The company had released preliminary results last week. **BASF** shares rose 1.15 DM to 73.80 DM.

"The **BASF** numbers were very good," said Christiane Dietmar, analyst at **Bayerische Vereinsbank** in Munich. "Better than our expectations. It's a strange situation because everyone was expecting a positive surprise. But this is a very positive surprise."

Hoechst is going through a restructuring to transform itself into a pure life-sciences company by 2000, and its sales have been hit by the disposal of noncore chemicals subsidiaries.

The Swiss pharmaceuticals company Novartis reported a net profit of \$2.1 billion Swiss francs (\$3.53 billion) for the first full year since it was created by the merger of Ciba-Geigy AG and Sandoz AG.

The 1997 profit was 43 percent higher than what the companies earned the previous year, while sales rose 19 percent, to \$31.18 billion francs. The company eliminated 9,100 jobs last year but added 2,400 employees, half of them outside of Switzerland.

Other major European companies that also reported results included:

• Diageo PLC's pretax profit was \$1.95 billion (\$3.26 billion) in 1997 before exceptional items, a 2 percent

increase over the 1996 results for the units making up the 1997 merger. Sales were £12.39 billion, down from the £13.44 billion generated in 1996 by the beverage operations of Grand Metropolitan PLC and Guinness PLC.

• Credit Suisse Group, the parent of the investment bank **Credit Suisse First Boston Inc.**, posted 1997 net profit of 397 million Swiss francs on strong growth in income, especially from its bond unit.

The banking giant had reported a loss of 2.1 billion francs in 1996, due to huge restructuring costs related to its acquisition of Winterthur Insurance Group.

• Lloyd's reported 1995 pretax profit of £1.007 billion, against £1.013 billion in 1994, and predicted difficult years to follow.

The insurer, which gives its re-



Manfred Schneider, the chairman of the board of **Bayer AG**, announcing record earnings Tuesday at a press conference.

EUROPE

Asia Turmoil Hits Michelin And LVMH

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — **Michelin SA** and **LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA** are suffering heavily from the Asian crisis, both companies reported Tuesday.

LVMH, the world's largest seller of luxury goods, said sales at its DFS Group duty-free chain, whose shops are mostly in Asia, fell 16 percent in dollar terms last year and 20 percent in the first two months of 1998, as the number of tourists in the region fell.

Michelin, the world's largest tiremaker, said that Asian sales excluding Japan fell 9 percent in 1997 and that 1998 would be another year of "recession" in the region.

LVMH, whose products include Hennessy cognac and Moet champagne, as well as cosmetics and luggage, said profit rose 23 percent in 1997, to 4.52 billion francs (\$700 million). But it warned that it was cautious about 1998.

Sales soared 54 percent in 1997 to 48.03 billion francs, while operating profit rose 19 percent to 8.3 billion francs.

Operating profit on champagne and wine rose particularly sharply, climbing 32 percent, but profit on cognac and spirits fell 13 percent to 1.56 billion francs.

Nonetheless, **Hennessy** cognac improved its world market share to 33 percent, with a 17 percent increase in North American sales compensating for the weakness of the Japanese market, the company said.

Michelin's 1997 profit rose 34 percent to 3.88 billion francs, or 28.5 francs per share. Analysts had expected 1997 earnings per share of 29.50 francs.

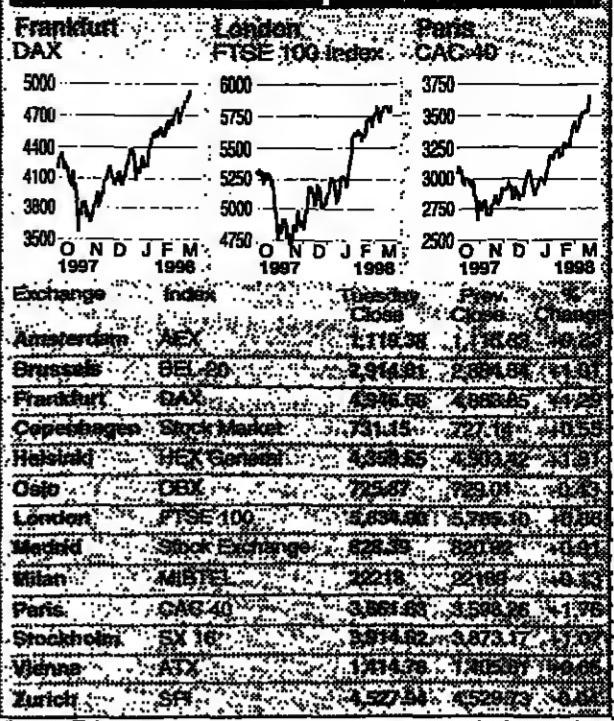
Michelin's profit rose 34 percent in 1997, to 3.88 billion francs, because of higher North American and European sales and cost-cutting efforts. But the company also took an exceptional charge of 153 million francs to cover the sharp declines in several Asian currencies.

"While sales grew strongly in South America and Japan, they fell markedly in Southeast Asia and South Korea because of the worsening situation" in the second half, the company said.

LVMH shares fell 29 francs to 1,244 francs, while **Michelin** stock fell 39.6 francs to 369.3 francs.

(Bloomberg, AFP, Bloomberg)

Investor's Europe



Sources: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• **Ispat International NV** agreed to buy **Inland Steel Co. of Chicago** for \$1.43 billion in cash and assumed debt. **Ispat** would become the world's eighth-biggest steel company and expand its operations into the United States.

• The **BBC** is set to take control of the company that markets two BBC television channels in Europe by buying out stakes held by **Pearson PLC** and **Cox Communications Inc.**, an industry source said. **BBC Worldwide** was set to buy the remaining 55 percent stake in **European Channel Management**, which markets and distributes commercial channels **BBC World** and **BBC Prime** in Europe.

• **Deutsche Telekom AG** said it would lower the fee for its T-Online Internet access service by 37.5 percent, to 3 Deutsche marks (\$1.65) an hour, effective April 1, and said it also expected to cut its telephone rates again as it deals with new competition.

• **Mobil Corp.** and **Hoechst AG** said they agreed to form a joint venture for plastic films that is expected to have \$1 billion in annual sales.

• **Tulip NV**, a Dutch computer maker, said its net losses nearly tripled in 1997, to 27.5 million guilders (\$13.4 million). Sales fell 13 percent to 461 million guilders.

• Bulgarian officials said they would try to collect an estimated \$2 billion from 30 Asian, African and Latin American countries that borrowed the money from Sofia under its previous Communist government. A Finance Ministry panel will begin talks with the debtor countries, including Iraq, which owes about \$1.6 billion.

• Norway will not necessarily have to tighten its budget simply because oil prices have fallen to a nine-year low, Finance Minister Gunnar Restad said. But he said he would adjust downward the government's forecast for oil prices in the revised budget in May. Prices are currently 26 percent below the forecast.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

Paris Gets Windfall From Its Stock Portfolio

Bloomberg News

PARIS — The rising profits and higher dividends this year of French companies will benefit a major shareholder in need of money: the government.

Dividends from just three state-controlled companies — **France Telecom SA**, **Thomson-CSF** and **Renault SA** — should reach at least 5.1 billion francs (\$835.1 million) this year.

Including the withholding tax the government also collects on dividends, the three companies will pay the state the equivalent of 0.1 percent of gross domestic product. That amount can be crucial as the government struggles to keep its deficit at or below 3 percent of GDP to qualify for Europe's planned Economic and Monetary Union.

"Whether it's turnaround efforts at the companies themselves, or just the economic turnaround, there's no question that they are going to be a major help to the state accounts this year," said Michael Hingue de Montvalon, economist at Oddo & Cie.

And **Thomson-CSF**, a maker of electronic systems, said last week it would raise its dividend 29 percent, to 3.6 francs a share, providing 249 million francs for the government, which has a 58 percent stake in the company.

"We've said we'd be interested in increasing our base in U.S. defense electronics," a **GEC** spokesman said, adding, "It's possible some opportunities may arise." **GEC** set up a 6 billion European currency unit (\$6.52 billion) credit facility last month, adding to a cash pile that stood at £1.2 billion (\$2 billion) last September.

"I don't think there's much doubt they have the firepower to do some major deals," said Michael Bogg, an analyst at **Chartechouse Tilney Securities**. He has a "buy" rating on **GEC**'s shares. They rose 15 pence Tuesday in London, to close at 442 pence.

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(Bloomberg, AFP)

GEC Might Bid for Lockheed and Northrop Defense Units

Bloomberg News

LONDON — General Electric Co. of Britain said Tuesday it might bid for some of the business of Lockheed Martin Corp. and Northrop Grumman Corp. if the companies put them up for sale.

Lockheed is weighing disposals to meet the U.S. Justice Department's concerns that its \$12 billion purchase of Northrop Grumman will limit competition in procurement of military materiel.

The Washington Post reported that the Justice Department was pressing both companies to come up with a plan by Wednesday to overcome antitrust objections.

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LVMH

Michelin

Renault

Thomson

Thomson-CSF

GE

GE</b

NASDAQ

Tuesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

	12 Month High	Low	Stock	DW	Yd	PE	\$5 100s High	Low	Low/Lated Chgs
1496 1496	1496	1496	ABCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1496	1496	-1/2
1500 1500	1500	1500	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1500	1500	-1/2
1501 1501	1501	1501	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1501	1501	-1/2
1502 1502	1502	1502	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1502	1502	-1/2
1503 1503	1503	1503	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1503	1503	-1/2
1504 1504	1504	1504	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1504	1504	-1/2
1505 1505	1505	1505	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1505	1505	-1/2
1506 1506	1506	1506	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1506	1506	-1/2
1507 1507	1507	1507	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1507	1507	-1/2
1508 1508	1508	1508	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1508	1508	-1/2
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1511 1511	1511	1511	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1511	1511	-1/2
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1570 1570	1570	1570	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1570	1570	-1/2
1571 1571	1571	1571	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1571	1571	-1/2
1572 1572	1572	1572	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1572	1572	-1/2
1573 1573	1573	1573	ACCO	1.00	1.00	1.00	1573	1573	-1/2
1574									

The Comedown of a Tokyo Titan

Public Sours on Finance Ministry as Scandals Abound

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Yoichi Otsuki seemed to be enjoying a life of power and prestige, until he fastened a noose to a curtain rod in his apartment and hanged himself.

A longtime official at the Finance Ministry, Mr. Otsuki, 54, was ennobled in an influential job in the ministry's castle-like bastion near the Imperial Palace. Behind these walls, in the "House of the Great Coffers," as it is known in Japanese, Mr. Otsuki worked in the nation's nerve center, the most powerful organization in Japan.

The ministry's tentacles touch so many facets of political and economic life that its officials wield power without parallel in the West. It has traditionally been more influential than the prime minister or any political party, and because it steers the world's second-biggest economy, the Finance Ministry's smallest maneuvers can move financial markets around the globe.

So it has been an extraordinary comedown since late January, when prosecutors first breached the Finance Ministry's seemingly impregnable walls. They have arrested four ministry officials, including two of Mr. Otsuki's subordinates, for accepting bribes from the financial institutions they oversee.

The scandal in which he became ensnared is still unfolding. On March 11, prosecutors entered the central bank, the Bank of Japan, traditionally a dominion of the ministry, to seize a high-level official. Private bankers have been detained,

top executives have resigned at major financial institutions, and one Parliament member, another Finance Ministry official and numerous businessmen have committed suicide to escape disgrace.

The scandal is shattering Japan's old faith in public servants and suggesting to a growing number of Japanese cynics that their bureaucracy may be rotten to the core. With economic troubles dogging all of Asia, the Finance Ministry is the single institution most able to orchestrate a revival of the region, but it increasingly resembles a fortress under siege, attacked both at home and abroad for erratic behavior and policy mismanagement.

Critics worry that the ministry may have lost its way at a moment when leaders in the United States and other industrial nations are demanding that it take more steps to help prevent an Asian tailspin.

Economists say that by trying to tighten the country's belt even during hard times, the ministry risks throwing Japan into recession.

Japan's politicians, accustomed to staying on the sidelines in formulation of economic policy, are stepping in to take the lead, further threatening the ministry and preventing its experts from fully concentrating on the task of nursing the sick economy. Particularly on the eve of a broad restructuring of the financial industry, the ministry appears distract by its scandals and by turf battles with politicians — battles that it may be beginning to lose.

"There will be a very drastic shift of power from the bureaucrats to the politicians," said Koichi Kato, secretary general of the governing Liberal Democratic Party. "In the past year, the bureaucrats who were thought to be the best and the brightest in this society, handling all policies, were proved to be not as effective and competent as we had thought. Now it is time for us politicians to make our own policy."

For now, the Finance Ministry has fended off a formal attempt by Sakigake, a small party in the governing coalition, to break it up into a handful of agencies. Until recently, the ministry was seen as the bedrock of Japanese prosperity, so few balked at the extent of its power — roughly equivalent to a combination of the U.S. Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Office of Management and Budget, Securities and Exchange Commission and parts of the Federal Reserve Board.

Amid recent calls by politicians to curb its powers, the ministry has agreed to spin off a financial surveillance agency in June. Both the finance minister and the deputy finance minister were forced out of their positions this year as casualties of the widening assault on the ministry.

But while the ministry's power appears on the wane for now, its strength and expertise, which make it arguably the most important repository of power outside of Washington, continue to dwarf those of Japan's elected officials. Politicians have called for more spending, but attempts to alter the ministry's steadfast policy of fiscal austerity have bounced off the ministry's stone walls.

Still, the attack on the ministry



Sakuya Fujiwara, a candidate for a deputy governorship of the Bank of Japan. The bank's governor said Tuesday no further resignations were to be expected.

has been debilitating. Japan's weekly magazines are accusing it of everything from dishonesty to incompetence. And the public is learning that Finance Ministry officials do not always spend their time laboring in neckties over statistical charts but also have been known to cavort — sometimes at the invitation of those they are supposed to regulate — at the raunchiest of sex clubs.

"They are losing control," Toru Nakatani, an economics professor at Toyo University, said of the ministry's bureaucrats. "They are demoralized. They are a group of very proud people, but they made an awful lot of fallacies. They've blundered so many times."

The ministry is accused not just of economic ineptitude but, perhaps more important in the public mind, of corruption and misbehavior. While lavish entertainment of government officials by corporate executives has long been commonplace in Japan, the public has been particularly angered by the revelation that banks entertained Finance Ministry officials at *no-pan shabu-shabu* clubs.

Shabu-shabu is a kind of cooked meat, but the specialty of the restaurant is the waitstaff, who wear short skirts and no underwear. In Japanese, "*no-pan*" refers to "no panties." So "*oo-pa* shabu-shabu" has become a national joke, a phrase on the tip of everyone's tongue.

The idea of these officials discussing bank regulation in such a setting is so absurd that it is becoming difficult for the ministry to be taken seriously.

IMF Holds Aid As Indonesia Stalls Reforms

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

JAKARTA — A senior International Monetary Fund official indicated Tuesday that Indonesia was unlikely to receive a delayed \$3 billion loan, part of the agency's bailout, this month because of IMF concerns about Indonesia's progress in reforming its economy.

Hubert Neiss, director of the Fund's Asia-Pacific department, said the second payment would not be made before April, after the IMF's executive board had reviewed Indonesia's progress.

Mr. Neiss, who heads a senior IMF team, said he would start talks with Indonesian officials Wednesday to discuss the first quarterly review of an economic program to which Jakarta agreed in return for a bailout of more than \$40 billion.

The IMF package requires Indonesia to carry out austerity measures, including eliminating price supports for fuel and basic food commodities and doing away with moneopolistic practices.

The first \$3 billion tranche was disbursed in December, and the second was to have been handed over Sunday.

The IMF and Indonesia have been at loggerheads over the delay in disbursement of the second tranche amid questions about Indonesia's commitment to reforms.

Indonesia said it would try to end misunderstandings with the IMF on the pace of change but refused to abandon a plan for a currency board to stabilize the rupiah.

Jakarta is determined to reform the economy with or without the IMF, said Gintanard Kartasasmita, coordinating minister for the economy.

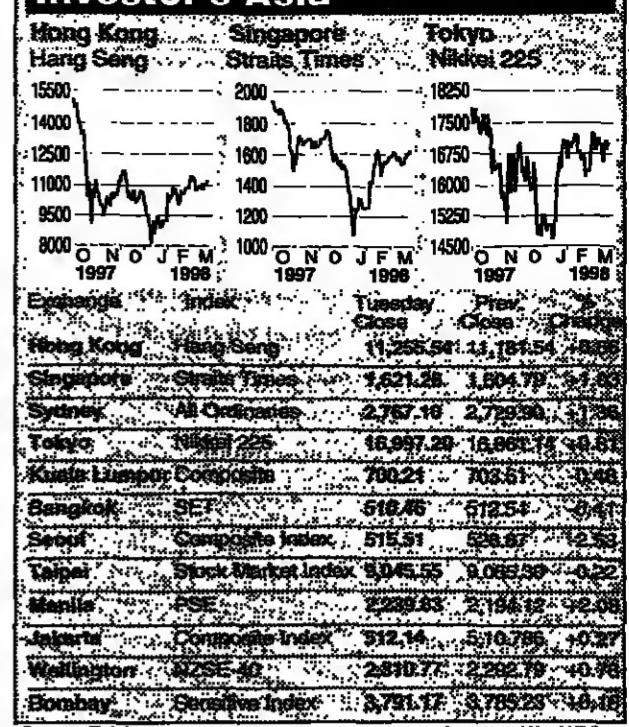
"President Suharto is looking for the best way to overcome the economic crisis," he said. "Suharto says we have not found the best solution to overcome the crisis."

Meanwhile, the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus, said Indonesia's economic woes should be attributed to the government's failure to implement reforms, not to deficiencies in the IMF's plan for the country. Mr. Camdessus said in an interview with Time magazine that the IMF plan had "not delivered all its potential because it has been either not implemented fully or was circumvented."

To renounce the IMF program, he said, "would be to renounce an undertaking seen by the entire world as the best course for the country."

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

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International Education in Germany & Austria WEDNESDAY

Business Education in the U.S.

Business Education in France

EDUCATION IS GETTING SHORTER AND MORE INTENSE IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

999 Other Funds

Responding to public requests for students to learn more in a shorter time period, higher-education administrators in Germany and Austria are embarking on a process of reform. More and more German and Austrian universities are offering degrees on the Anglo-American model, and classes are increasingly taught in English.

In autumn 1997, the University of Magdeburg's international department began offering Anglo-American-style bachelor's and master's degrees. The bachelor's program is taught in English, and the master's is about half English and half German.

Magdeburg is one of 13 institutions in Germany that offer an international program. The Ministry of Education, which is funding the programs, hopes they will lead the way for the "internationalization" of higher education.

The newly founded International University in Germany will go one step further. The entire university will be built around English

and Anglo-American degrees. Located in Bruchsal, it will open this autumn.

Another sign of change in the world of German education is "combi-courses," which are proliferating at universities. Students have a choice between German and English as their language of instruction.

These developments are nothing short of revolutionary because German education has traditionally resisted change. For example, three and a half decades of heated discussion and intense negotiations notwithstanding, the I.B. (international baccalaureate) — recognized widely throughout the world — still has not been certified by most of Germany's state educational authorities as a high school diploma entitling Germans to attend a university in Germany.

For generations, foreigners wishing to attend any kind of institution of higher learning in Germany have had to pass a very demanding test of German proficiency. No exceptions were made, even for students who were

studying, for example, hotel management in English. Starting up and accrediting schools — even elementary schools — took at least five years. The delays and complexity of the approval process discouraged many would-be school founders from even making the attempt.

Today's internationalization wave has been triggered by the authorities' willingness to accept trial programs. This involves partial waivers of official regulations.

The most fundamental internationalization is yet to come, should the country's omnibus law reforming the financing of education be passed. The law was recently approved by the Chancellor Helmut Kohl-led federal cabinet.

It sets up measures to reward students and universities for performance.

In plain terms, the law strives to move students through the universities faster while teaching them more. Short duration, high learning rate — this could easily describe a good university in the United States or Britain. Universities in those countries were indeed what inspired the

new law, according to Der Spiegel magazine.

What started the revolution?

"The market. After years of resisting the compelling call of Central Europe's business community for courses of study providing graduates with large amounts of practical knowledge, our country's educational establishment, spurred by the high rate of unemployment now prevailing, has thoroughly and completely seen the light," says Wolfgang Heuss, international education expert and head of the English department at Munich's Sprachen und Dolmetscher-Institut (languages and interpreting institute).

"In our and many other areas, the European Union has also been a highly important change agent. One of the EU's main objectives is to promote the free flow of persons and expertise among its member states, and making sure that all of these states offer degrees of universal applicability is one key of achieving this goal," Mr. Heuss adds.

The fight to internationalize the education systems

in both Germany and Austria has been led by the country's private high schools.

"As with our counterparts, our prosperity has always been dependent upon our providing what our 'customers' need and want. And this has long been courses of

school students attending it.

In 2000, joined by their Abitur-track counterparts, the I.B. students will have a new home of their own: the International Salem College. Some 66 million Deutsche marks (\$36.13 million) have been raised to build the facility, making it the largest project in the history of private education in Germany.

As the example of the Oberursel-based Frankfurt International School shows, the market's demand for the I.B. is strong.

"All of our students are on the I.B. track," says Adele Hodgson, spokesperson for the school. People are interested in the program because of "the cost of education nowadays. In a number of countries, universities award holders of the I.B. advanced placement, thus cutting the time of attendance and hence the overall expenditure."

The I.B. is also popular

among the students attending Austria's private schools.

"An average of 25 percent of our students choose to take this challenging two-year program," says Marie Sammons, marketing manager at the American International School in Salzburg.

Public schools are also changing in both Germany and Austria. A number of polytechnics have been offering English-language classes for over a decade.

The mainstay at many of these schools is commercial and technical instruction; degrees are often awarded in hotel management, sports marketing and international civil engineering. English is, of course, the lingua franca of the world's hotel, sports, civil engineering and many other sectors. The polytechnics have been adept at circumventing rules against English in the classroom and against non-German degrees.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Leon Barmore, the Louisiana Tech women's coach, and assistant Kim Mulkey-Robertson encourage their team.

Crimson Run Ends

BASKETBALL Arkansas eliminated Harvard on Monday night to reach the round of 16 in the NCAA women's tournament. Harvard had become the first 16th seed to win an NCAA game when it beat injury-riddled Stanford on Saturday, but Arkansas beat the Crimson, 82-64.

Other teams to advance included the traditional powers Lousiana Tech, Tennessee, Connecticut and North Carolina as well as Duke, Notre Dame, Florida, Purdue, Illinois, Rutgers, Alabama, Old Dominion, North Carolina State and Arizona.

The controversy over Alabama's last-second shot in a 75-74 victory over UCLA on Sunday carried over to Monday when the three officials were barred from working the rest of the tournament. Latoya Caudle scored the winning points after Alabama inbounded with just eight-tenths of a second left. (AP)

Switch for PSG Chairman

SOCER Michael Denisot, the Paris Saint-Germain president, will swap jobs at the end of the season with Charles Bierry, head of Canal Plus, the TV station that took control of the ailing soccer club in 1991, France Info radio said Tuesday.

Both men are journalists and television personalities. Under Denisot, Paris Saint-Germain won the French title in 1994 and the European Cup Winners Cup in 1996 but has faltered this season. (Reuters)

Green Light for Nicklaus

GOLF Jack Nicklaus received special exemptions from the U.S. Golf Association to play in the U.S. Open through 2000. When Nicklaus, 58, was out among those given exemptions in January it appeared his streak of playing in consecutive major championships would end at 145 after the Masters. (AP)

Zimbabwe Sets Target

CRICKET Murray Goodwin and Andy Flower added 277 runs in an unbroken stand Tuesday on the fourth day of the first test in Bulawayo. Zimbabwe ended its second innings at 302, setting Pakistan 368 to win. At the close Pakistan was 24 without loss. (Reuters)

Boston Steals a Goal In Victory Over Tampa

The Associated Press
Both teams saw what happened. So did the fans and the television broadcasters.

But the referee, Dennis LaRue, did not see that the Boston Bruins' defenseman Darren Van Impe was in the goal stand.

The rules say that if a player from the attacking team is in the crease — with the puck or without — a goal should be disallowed.

Not long afterward, Khrisich set up Steve Heinze whose overtime goal lifted the Bruins to a 4-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

After the game Monday, the Lightning's coach, Jacques Demers, said of Khrisich's goal: "It's just not a goal. It's not sour grapes. I just saw the replay and even the Bruins' announcers said they got a break."

Tampa Bay, with the worst record in the league, was protecting a 3-2 lead in Boston when Khrisich shot about five feet from the goal.

Van Impe, who had been in the crease, jumped and landed outside the crease after the puck had gone in for Khrisich's 25th goal. Re-

High-Stakes Soccer: Goalless and Soulless

Champions Cup Contenders Play It Safe

By Rob Hughes
International Herald Tribune

MANCHESTER — Franz Beckenbauer, who won everything in his time as a player and won it all again as team chief, told his spoiled stars at Bayern Munich last week: "If you were out soccer players, you would be tramps sleeping under a bridge."

Tramps, eh? The recipients of that barb, three of them smarting at \$11,000 fines for criticizing club tactics as too

VANTAGE POINT

negative, really showed Kaiser Beckenbauer, who is the club's president, what they can do.

They played so negatively Saturday that, for the fifth consecutive game, the fabulous Munich failed to score.

"That's it," said Giovanni Trapattoni, the team's coach, "we can say *auf Wiedersehen* to the championship."

This negativity is everywhere. Look across Europe. Three of the Champions League quarterfinalists are from the Bundesliga and a fourth, Real Madrid, has a German coach.

On Wednesday the second leg of those quarterfinals might as well be the first, for all four first-leg games — stifled by waylaying caution — ended with the score dead.

The elite have become so focused on European games that they have also temporarily stopped winning in their domestic competitions. In the two weeks since the first leg of the European Cup quarterfinals, the eight contestants have played 15 national league games between them, and won two.

At Wembley Stadium last Saturday 50,787 mainly young supporters — soccer's future — saw an intriguing stalemate between 15-year-old boys. England, the founding nation of soccer, and Brazil, the samba specialists, are apparently schooling the next generation along German lines. Each adopted a rigid 3-3-2 formation, a back line of three

central defenders marshaled by a sweeper, a midfield five flanked by fullbacks, and two mobile, hard-running forwards.

The result was goalless, if not soulless. Brazil has been studying ways to "Europeanize" for two decades, looking for a framework to protect skillful players. England, coming down from the banal high-ball strategy, is simply looking for a method to mimic — and obviously the German way is more attainable than the old Latin artistry.

Imitation, of course, is the sincerest form of flattery. Germany is the producer of European champions and Borussia Dortmund is the champion club. And yet both Dortmund and Bayern Munich are trained by Italians. The core of Munich's internal arguments is a conflict between coach Trapattoni's defensive leanings and the players' instincts.

Mario Basler, Michael Scholl and Thomas Strunz, all German national squad players, were fined by Beckenbauer after Trapattoni had emotionally banged the table and declared before a live television audience: "I am sick and tired of taking the flak for them!"

Beckenbauer backed the trainer and said the team was willing to change all the players if necessary. Those who know Beckenbauer might suspect his play calculated to produce the best performance Wednesday in Dortmund.

But Elber, the Brazilian forward who feeds off the bludgeoning physical force of Carsten Jancker, sounded genuinely disillusioned when he said: "I'm expected to play as a defensive striker; I play football in the streets; I play with simplicity and unpredictability. I never expected Bayern would buy me to change me."

Dortmund, by contrast, often scores and concedes goals with abandon. Since the 0-0 draw in Munich's Olympic Stadium, the team has lost by a score of 4-2 and won, 3-2, in the Bundesliga. Meanwhile, Bayer Leverkusen, Germany's third representative in the Champions League, travels in comparative serenity to Madrid where it must

score to knock out Real. The 1-1 draw in Leverkusen was the least Madrid's team merited but now, if Jupp Heynckes is to remain coach, Real must finish the job.

Meanwhile, the Spanish police must guard the expected 1,500 Leverkusen



AJAX TUMBLES — Dmitri Khlestov, left, a Spartak Moscow defender, battles for the ball with Dean Gorre of Ajax Amsterdam in their UEFA Cup quarterfinal in Moscow on Tuesday. Alexander Shirkov scored in the 85th minute to give Spartak a 1-0 victory in the match and a 4-1 victory over the two legs of the tie.

score to knock out the Spanish, Brazilian, Dutch, Argentinian and Serbian-Croatian elements of Real Madrid will prevail.

In Kiev, there is the promise of a mighty contest. Dynamo Kiev confirmed in the 1-1 first leg in Turin that its skills are as good as any in Europe. Juventus may run its missed chances in Turin where Alessandro Del Piero could and should have added two goals to the one strike by Filippo Inzaghi.

Juventus, like so many others, has spluttered in the league lately and will have to summon every ounce of its continental experience to resist Andrei Shevchenko and Sergei Rebrov; forwards who stayed in the Ukraine rather than be tempted abroad.

Dynamo's sense of mission is a national cause. Manchester United has mainly the compelling cause of history

spurring it on against Monaco. United is another team that has taken its eyes off domestic competition while distracted by Europe. It has not been able to rescue matches with a flicker of genius, as the now retired Eric Cantona consistently did. It has lost Peter Schmeichel, its dominating goalkeeper, who tore a hamstring last weekend.

No coach can anticipate such mishaps. Yet Alex Ferguson might regret his decision to play utterly negatively in Monaco rather than strike for victory. The match ended, 0-0.

Ferguson may have underestimated Monaco's ability to score on the break in games away from home. He may go down as the first man to go bust by not gambling in Monte Carlo.

Rob Hughes is on the staff of The Times of London.

NHL Sink

The Associated Press
The beautiful Los Angeles, Land of the future of the Western Conference, the present, however, belongs to the Seattle SuperSonics. Derek Fisher scored 12 of his 20 in the final quarter as the Sonics beat the Lakers, 101-89. Monday night, the Lakers, 3-0 against the L.A. Kings, played three tough games in a row. In Baker, the Sonics forced a game seven, which was comfortable in close games. We think our veteran leaders are doing well.

And Detlef Schrempf, who had 21 points lead before passing, had seven minutes left to score 25 points. But All-Star Kobe Bryant and the game with a 16-point lead was held scoreless and finished in 13 minutes. Since improved their NBA record.

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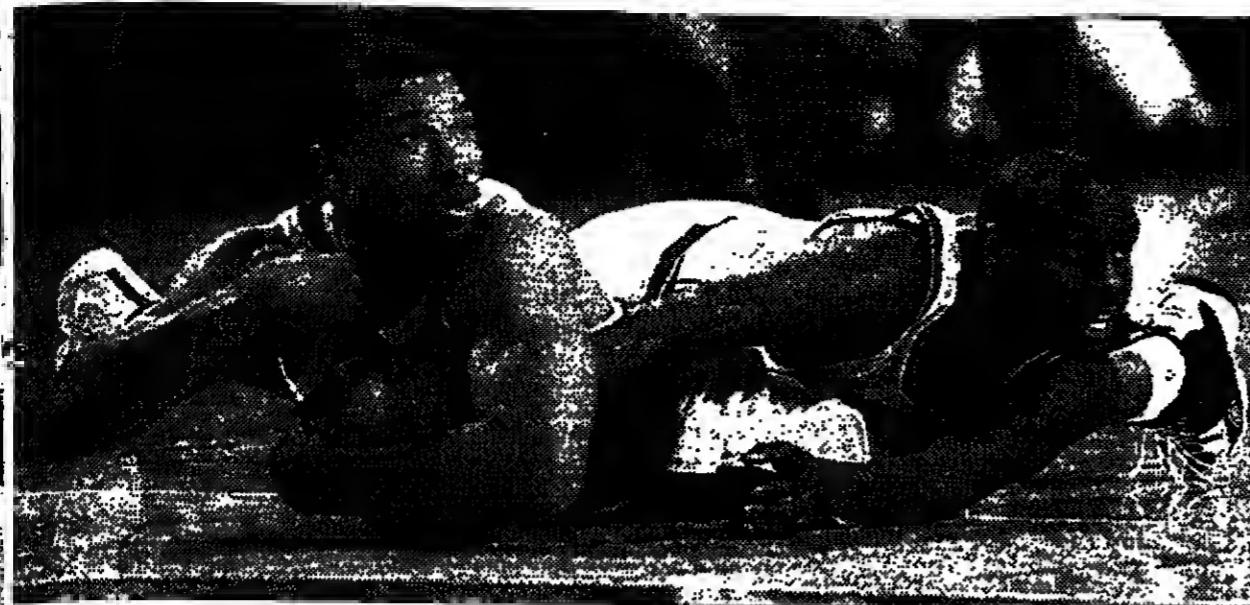
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8. Turkey 2
9. Greece 1

AMERICA'S MENACE
1. Kevin Thatcher 10
2. George Cots 5
3. Steve Adams 3
4. Mike Nick 2
5. Tom Paine 1
6. Sean O'Neal 1
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1998

SPORTS



The Los Angeles Lakers' Derek Fisher, left, and the Seattle SuperSonics' Gary Payton awaiting the call after their midcourt scramble.

Sonics Sink Lakers; Jazz Trap Wolves

The Associated Press

The youthful Los Angeles Lakers might be the future of the Western Conference. The present, however, belongs to a veteran team, the Seattle SuperSonics. Gary Payton scored 12 of his 27 points in the final quarter as the Sonics beat the Lakers, 101-89. Monday night Seattle is 3-0 against the Lakers this season.

"We've played three tough games," said Vin Baker, the Sonics forward. "But we're comfortable in close games because we think our veteran leadership will see us through."

Baker and Detlef Schrempf each scored 21 points for Seattle, which squandered a 21-point lead before pulling away in the final seven minutes.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 25 points for the Lakers. But All-Star Kobe Bryant, who entered the game with a 16-point average, was held scoreless and took only one shot in 13 minutes.

The Sonics improved their NBA-best

record to 49-15.

Jazz 102, Timberwolves 96

Visiting Utah won its 11th straight. Karl Malone scored 29 points for the Jazz, John Stockton added 22, and they connected on a couple of crucial pick-and-roll plays in the closing minutes.

Pistons 103, Heat 90

Grant Hill scored 26 points as Detroit snapped an eight-game losing streak against Miami.

Bulls 88, Nets 72

In Chicago, Toni Kukoc scored 14 of his 21 points in the decisive third quarter, and the Bulls went on to win despite a poor performance by Michael Jordan, who scored 17 points, 11 fewer than his NBA-leading average.

He also missed an uncontested dunk, had another attempted dunk blocked by David Vaughn, committed four turnovers and was 6-for-15 from the field.

winning streak since December 1996.

Johnny Newman scored 17 points for the Nuggets (7-59), who fell to 1-32 on the road.

Spurs 96, Bucks 85

Tim Duncan had 25 points and 17 rebounds as San Antonio beat slumping Milwaukee. David Robinson added 21 points for the Spurs, while Vinny Del Negro had 15.

Rockets 88, Hornets 87

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SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

MONDAY RESULTS

TUESDAY RESULTS

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

THURSDAY RESULTS

FRIDAY RESULTS

SATURDAY RESULTS

SUNDAY RESULTS

MONDAY STANDINGS

CENTRAL DIVISION

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIAMI DIVISION

NEW YORK DIVISION

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

